

## COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

You will have read and heard about the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. At this stage (5 March 2020) there are three confirmed cases in New Zealand.

The likelihood of a widespread outbreak in New Zealand is low-moderate (MOH), and the Ministry of Health is monitoring the situation closely.

Advice from the Diocese is to follow the guidelines from the Ministry of Health website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

The Diocese is monitoring the situation daily and will update the advice to Parishes if the situation should change.

### **The Diocese recommends individuals take the following protective measures:**

- Practice good hand-washing using water and soap. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- Cough and/or sneeze into your elbow or a disposable tissue. Dispose of the tissue immediately. Do not use cloth hankies as they spread the virus.
- Avoid close contact (one metre distance) with people who have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- **If you have cold or flu-like symptoms please stay home from church. If you require pastoral care please phone or email your parish.**
- People who have been in China, Iran, Northern Italy or the Republic of Korea should be in self-isolation for 14 days after returning.
- **If you have cold or flu-like symptoms seek medical care by phoning Healthline or your GP before visiting a medical centre. The dedicated Healthline number for Coronavirus is 0800 358 5453.**

### **Communion and the Peace**

- The practice of intinction (dipping bread in wine) must not be used during this time.
- Those administering communion must ensure they have followed good hand-washing practice prior to communion **and** use hand sanitiser prior to administering or receiving communion.
- It is strongly recommended that parishioners receiving communion use hand sanitiser prior to receiving communion.
- Parishes may continue to use the Common Cup, but the Diocese strongly advises using individual cups for wine/juice during this time.
- People can choose whether to take bread and juice/wine or just bread. Receiving one element in communion is sufficient to have participated in communion.
- At this stage we are not recommending Parishes stop from practicing the Exchange of the Peace. Parishioners should practice good hand-washing and use Hand Sanitiser before the service begins. Parishioners with cold and flu-like symptoms should not participate in the Exchange of the Peace (and should not be at Church).

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Health and Safety Coordinator

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**FOR GREYMOUTH PARISH THE DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN THAT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE WE WILL ONLY BE SERVING THE BREAD AT COMMUNION.**