



30 January 2020

Dear Fathers,

You will have seen the extensive media coverage regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus. Although NSW Health has deemed the risk of the virus to the general public as low, a number of precautionary recommendations have been issued in order to limit its spread.

In light of these guidelines, Bishop Anthony has asked me to convey to you his following instructions that are pertinent to any such situations of general community health concern:

1. As from today, the chalice is not to be shared at any Masses but is to be reserved to the Celebrant(s) only.
2. All Ministers of Communion (Ordinary and Extraordinary) are to be diligent in the use of hand sanitizer prior to the distribution of Communion.
3. These measures are to be publicly and clearly communicated to all congregations at Mass.
4. Such precautions remain in force until the end of February, upon which time Bishop Anthony will review the situation in light of any further developments.

The Australian Government has recommended:

5. People who have been in contact with any confirmed coronavirus cases are to be isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure.
6. Returned travelers who have been in Hubei Province of China are to be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, other than to seek individual medical care.

Additionally, the NSW Government has requested that children who have visited China (including Hong Kong) in the last two weeks not attend school or childcare services until 14 days have lapsed from their date of departure from China. The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese has provided our Principals and school communities with all relevant advice in respect to the implementation of this guideline. CatholicCare Broken Bay has also issued its staff with relevant guidelines.

With these instructions is attached a Communicable Diseases FactSheet from the NSW Government.

With gratitude for your cooperation in this matter,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG