

The Anglican Diocese of Nelson



Traffic Light System: Fact Sheet 4

Guidelines for Communion and the Peace

Current as at 7 April 2022

Communion

Parishes should adopt the following protocols relating to the administration of Communion:

The common cup and the practice of intinction are *not permitted* during the pandemic.

- Those approaching to receive communion are encouraged to be masked and physically distanced – especially at the red setting.
- Those serving communion at orange and red are required to be masked.
- Unless using individual cups*, parishes must only communicate the bread at the Red and Orange settings. (Receiving one element in communion is sufficient to have participated in communion.)
- Those administering communion must use alcohol-based hand sanitiser prior to the administration of communion. If alcohol-based hand sanitiser is unavailable set up a hand-washing station with bowls, water, soap and towels for those administering communion to use.
- Those administering communion must ensure their hands do not touch the hands of those receiving communion. If this occurs accidentally they must re-sanitise their hands before continuing to administer communion.
- Those receiving communion should sanitise prior to receiving communion. Hand sanitiser should be placed near communion stations.
- To avoid transmission via the communion rail, those receiving communion should ideally remain standing. If people steady themselves at the rail then discretely wipe with a sanitising cloth between communicants.

*Use of Individual Cups for Communion

Individual cups may be used at all levels so long as strict hygiene measures are observed.

Note places of risk in the use of individual cups:

- Pouring of wine/juice into the cups – Hand hygiene and wearing a mask during filling would be appropriate)
- Cups exposed to air (droplets) after filling. (Covering would remove this risk)
- Distribution of the cups to ensure no multiple touching of the tray. (Parishioners to sanitise before taking cups from tray, then have them place/drop cup on another tray after consuming the juice/wine.)
- Cleaning afterwards, unless they are single-use plastics. Empty (without handling) the tray/basket of glass cups into hot water with detergent and wash thoroughly. Dry upside-down on a clean cloth. (Or run through steriliser if that is feasible.) Plastic cups should be disposed of after use.

Exchanging the Peace: Don't touch when exchanging the peace. Other gestures can be used such as waving or giving 'thumbs up'.