**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Parish of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Mt Pritchard (OLMC) is committed to ensure the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and parishioners.

We are taking the current situation very seriously and as the COVID-19 situation in Australia develops, we will continue taking precautionary action.

**How to protect yourself and others**

* Everyone must practise good hygiene to protect against infection and prevent the virus spreading.
* **If you are feeling sick – stay at home, do not attend work or any OLMC Service**
* If you have a confirmed case, you need to isolate yourself to prevent it spreading to other people.

**Good hygiene**

Everyone must practise good hygiene to protect against infection and prevent the virus spreading.



Good hygiene includes:

* covering your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
* disposing of tissues properly
* washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, including before and after eating and after going to the toilet
* using alcohol-based hand sanitisers
* cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
* if you are sick, avoiding contact with others and staying more than 1.5 metres away from people
* cleaning and sanitising frequently used objects such as mobiles, keys and wallets

Read more about [protective measures against coronavirus](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public) on the World Health Organization website.

If you have a confirmed case, you need to [self-quarantine](https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/what-you-need-to-know-about-coronavirus-covid-19#if-required-to-stay-at-home) to prevent it spreading to other people.

### Surgical masks

Surgical masks in the community are only helpful in preventing people who have coronavirus disease from spreading it to others.

**If you are well, you do not need to wear a surgical mask.** There is little evidence that widespread use of surgical masks in healthy people prevents transmission in public.

**From today:**

**OLMC will be implementing several new measures to ensure that your health and safety remains a priority particularly when dealing with the (COVID-19) outbreak.**

**To maintain a clean and hygienic environment within our site, we will be implementing the following:**

**1.** Signage to encourage personal hygiene throughout our site.

**2.** Information session/s for OLMC staff on the latest advice from the NSW and Federal Health Departments and

 The Sydney Archdiocese.

**3.** Placement of hand sanitizer is in all Parish buildings as follows:

Presbytery – front entrance on corner table, kitchen, and dining room

Parish Office – at the first floor beside the glass window, on secretary’s table

Church – at the front entrance on the holy water fonts, in the sacristy & on the RHS credenza

**4.** Church cleaners are asked to always wear disposable gloves whilst cleaning the Church. Cleaners are asked make cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces that people may come in contact with a priority including: pews, lectern, exposed parts of the altar, sanctuary chairs and stair side rails, sacristy counter tops and all door knobs and handles etc.

**5.** Presbytery housekeepers are asked to make cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces that people may be exposed to a priority.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to monitor the situation closely and act accordingly on the advice given by the health authorities.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests.

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