



COVID 19 RESPONSE GUIDELINES - PHASE 1

BEST PRACTICE: MEETING TOGETHER FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE

With the easing of restrictions by the NSW Government in relation to meeting together we wanted to provide you with a *'Best Practice: Meeting Together for a Sunday Service'* resource to refer to should you choose to share your Sunday church experience with others or attend a small church event such as Meet and Greet.

While we will do our best to keep providing helpful recommendations for meeting together during this time, there are no perfect solutions. We understand that during this time there will be differing opinions, preferences and personalities. This *'Best Practice'* resource is therefore not meant to function as a directive or be used to force individuals into anything they do not yet feel comfortable to do. **The goal of this resource is to equip you to love and protect those around you, even if you yourself are not at risk.**

The NSW government has lifted restrictions and now allows, with strict guidelines, up to 100 people to come together for a worship service.

So what does this mean for C3 Thirroul?

Our recommendation and path forward is slightly slower than what is legally permissible. For now, our Sunday services will continue in an online format on our Church Online Platform, running 4 services each Sunday at 10am, 11am, 7pm and 8pm.

We do recognise that for many of you, worshipping together is an important part of the expression of your faith and you are missing that connection. While C3 Thirroul may not yet be able to worship together as we did in our pre-COVID 19 format at this point in time, this resource will provide you with information about best practice **should you choose to meet with others to watch online church together.**

The current NSW Government restrictions related to meeting together in homes are as follows;

- Up to **20 visitors** may visit another household at any one time. The total number of visitors **includes adults and children**. This restriction does not change whether you are meeting inside or outside at your home.

- If you are over 70 or have a pre-existing medical condition, you should limit the number of visitors and take care at all times.

While having visitors in your home it is important that you;

- **Maintain physical distance of at least 1.5 metres from others:** Please consider whether the space you are inviting others into can accommodate this recommendation
- **Practice good hand hygiene:** it is recommended that each person washes their hands as they enter your house and has access to hand sanitiser
- If partaking in food and drink it is recommended that each individual **serve themselves** and for there not to be food that is communally shared.

Do not visit another home, or have people in your home if you exhibit any of the following symptoms;

- Fever
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of Breath

Get tested if you are experiencing any of these symptoms, even if they are mild and follow NSW Health advice about staying home while you are waiting for test results.

We also recommend that you download the **COVID Safe App** to your smartphone and have it activated when visiting someone else's home or when hosting others in your home. This will assist in contact tracing should someone receive a positive diagnosis of COVID 19.

We understand that some of you will not yet be comfortable or may be unable to meet with others in person. We want to honour and support your preference and assure you that should that be your choice you will not be missing out. You are a valued part of our church family and we will continue to provide avenues for you to connect. We encourage you to continue watching our online service and if possible, engage in the online chat during and after the service. We will also continue to offer other opportunities for our community to connect online.

During this phase our Connect Groups will continue. If you are not already a part of a Connect Group, we encourage you to contact us so that we can connect you with one. For those already in a Connect Group, your Connect leaders will continue to keep you informed as to how your groups will stay connected.

**Best practice guidelines are accessed from the NSW Government website:*
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>