



Centre for Liturgy Archdiocese of Perth

Guidelines for Musicians and Choirs during COVID-19

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we must be prepared to maintain hygiene in order to keep our musicians safe and ensure our music and musical equipment is clean and safe to use.

Musicians need to be mindful of physical distancing – 1.5 metres between people in all directions. Unidirectional microphones should not be used as they require people to stand closer than 1.5 metres apart. Multi-directional microphones may be shared as long as social distancing is maintained.

There is some concern that singing in church could spread coronavirus. If the musicians practice physical distancing then there shouldn't be a problem.

Likewise, with people attending Mass (in the pews), there needs to be 1.5 metres between people in all directions. The way to achieve this outcome is to use every second pew. This will allow enough distance between people to make congregational singing a safe practice.

In addition, the following steps need to be maintained in order to prevent spread of viruses:

Firstly, after you use **the organ or keyboard** you must wipe down the keys and any other surface touched. We would suggest using a disinfectant wipe and then drying it with a paper towel or Chux. Please dispose of these items after you use them. The woodwork might need a clean with eucalyptus oil once in a while.

Music stands/microphones: These too will need to be wiped down with a disinfectant.

Choir seating area: The chairs or pews which your musicians use will need to be wiped down after each Mass with a disinfectant.

Music sheets/books: It is not permissible for people to share music sheets and books. If you have a bound book resource that you are using with your musicians then each person should have their own copy, instead of using one copy this time and a different copy another time. Names in books will help that cause. If you use are using sheets or music octavos which you will have legally purchased or downloaded, again it would be wise for each person to have their own copy. That will save a lot of time wiping books and sheet music down.

Hymn books (for the people): Most places have PowerPoint in their church, so the person operating the computer/projector will need to wipe down the computer keyboard and remote (if they use one). Hymn books cannot be used, but disposable hymn sheets are an option.

Bulletins will either need to be taken home or disposed of and not shared.

Other events on church property also have to observe the protocols regarding cleaning and social distancing. This applies to churches, parish halls, meeting rooms. Events such as concerts, parish celebrations, PREP classes and Sacramental preparation classes are all included.

Keeping things clean is something we will need to think about and adapt to as the pandemic progresses.

This article has been prepared by the staff at the Centre for Liturgy. Thank you to Doctors Luke and Antoinette Torre for their assistance with this article on keeping our musicians and music areas safe.

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