

# Operational Plan to open the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Alert Level 2 with gatherings allowed up to 100

## Governmental Guidelines that affect PEA at Alert Level 2

- *Physical distancing of 1 metre outside the home.*
- *Gatherings of up to 100 people indoors allowed while maintaining physical distancing and contact tracing requirements.*
- *Public venues can open but must comply with conditions on gatherings, and undertake public health measures.*
- *People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home.*

## Introduction

We are looking forward to resuming Perpetual Adoration at Alert Level 2. We want to do this in a reasonable and responsible way, with the safety of our people and respect for our sacramental life our top priorities. To that end, we are issuing these directives, guidelines and considerations for the resumption of perpetual adoration and to demonstrate our commitment to protecting communities.

We understand the seriousness of this pandemic. We also understand the strong desire of our people to adore the Lord and these directives provide both a reasonable and responsible way to make that happen at Alert Level 2.

Pandemic-induced anxieties, confinement to homes, fear of catching the virus, unemployment, and financial uncertainty have left people fearful and distressed. It is at times like these when the Church is most needed, bringing her message of faith, hope, and charity.

The Church, at its best, addresses and assists people through difficult times and resuming Adoration is one small way in which the Diocese can help. As we return, we must remember that some of our people will be anxious. It is important that we follow these Directives for the good of all. The last thing we would want is to contribute to a rebound of the virus that would again force a suspension of Perpetual Adoration down the road. Please contact Matt O'Connell if you have questions about these guidelines.

## Please remember

Despite all the measures and guidelines put in place, there will still be a degree of risk for anyone who comes to St Gregory's for adoration. Following these guidelines will minimise this as much as possible but there will always be a small risk. Coming to St Gregory's means that you are fully aware of the risks of doing so and take responsibility for your actions.

There is no pre-determined timeline for how long restrictions will be in place but they will be reviewed and amended once the Country reaches Alert Level 1.

## Specific Church and Chapel Actions undertaken for Alert Level 2

The following are the Diocese of Christchurch's specific guidelines to be observed by ALL who choose to attend Adoration at St Gregory's. **The Diocese of Christchurch, the Catholic Parish of Papanui and the Perpetual Adoration Committee have a responsibility to eliminate the possibility of Covid19 transmission. All adorers and visitor share this responsibility but adhering to the guidelines put in place to mitigate/reduce the risk.**

1. Perpetual Adoration will be held in the main church at St Gregory's between 8am and 10pm from Monday until Saturday at 6pm. At all other times Adoration will be held in the adoration chapel (including all of Sunday).
2. The doors to the parish centre and the door to the main church will be propped open at all times to ensure adorers/visitors do not need to touch door handles. The glass doors at the back of the church will be closed to enable one entrance only.

3. Hand Sanitiser will be provided for every adorer/visitor to use when entering and leaving the church/chapel.
4. Candles will be changed by a parish team at certain times of the day. Adorers may change the candles in the chapel but must use hand sanitizer before and after.
5. Large signs are up at St Gregory's on the chapel / church stating that all visitors to the church/chapel must sign in with their name and phone number and the time of their visit to enable contact tracing. Separate signs will also state that anyone who is feeling unwell is not to enter. Adorers need only sign in to the regular sign in book.
6. Multiple avenues of advertising will be used to get the message out as well as contacting key leaders (such as the Indian community).
7. The Heat pump in the chapel will be left on at all times to ensure no one needs to touch the controller.
8. The church and chapel will be cleaned regularly including door handles, candle sticks, toilets etc (see cleaning protocols below)
9. In the church only every 2<sup>nd</sup> row can be used. Physical distancing requirements of 1 metre in place must be maintained.
10. In the chapel during the night hours there will be a maximum of 12 people allowed in the chapel at any one time.
11. The Holy Water fonts have been removed as well as the prayer intention box, rosary box and votive candle stands.

### **Guidelines for Adorers and Visitors visiting St Gregory's for Adoration**

The following are the Diocese of Christchurch's specific guidelines to be observed by ALL who choose to attend Adoration at St Gregory's.

1. All adorers must sign in in the normal way. All visitors to the church/chapel must sign in with their name and phone number and the time of their visit to enable contact tracing.
2. People who are sick or have any symptoms must stay at home. This includes those who have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
3. People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible.
4. All persons entering and leaving the church/chapel must use hand sanitiser.
5. Adorers / Visitors must stay physically separate from each other. In the church please sit in every 2nd row as marked in the church. Distancing requirements of 1 metre in place.

### **COVID-19 Cleaning Protocol**

**The Diocese of Christchurch, the Catholic Parish of Papanui and the Perpetual Adoration Committee have a responsibility to eliminate the possibility of Covid19 transmission through a strict cleaning protocol. All adorers and visitor share this responsibility by adhering to the guidelines put in place to mitigate/reduce the risk.**

**The church, chapel and parish centre will be cleaned regularly by parish staff.**