



WELCOME BACK (OR JUST WELCOME!) TO "IN-PERSON" CHURCH – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW –

St Michael's Uniting Church is reopening for 10am Sunday Gatherings!

Health and safety are paramount, so we will be adhering to the restrictions required by the [Victorian Government Roadmap to Recovery](#). Our Sunday Gathering experience will be somewhat different because of these requirements, but it will nevertheless be joyful!

What to do:

- [Pre-book a seat online](#)
- If you're at all unwell, please stay home
- Arrive at the church between 9:30 and 9:45am.
- Wear your facemask (everyone 12 or older, unless you have a medical reason)
- Enter via the corner of Russell and Collins St, or via St Michael's Walk
- Use hand sanitiser as you enter
- Observe 1.5m physical distancing from people not in your household (waving hello rather than hugs or handshakes)
- Check in with a welcomer (who will have a copy of the bookings list)
- Follow an usher to your seat
- Sit in the seat allocated to you
- Don't move around before or during the service
- Savour the moment of gathering with old friends and new, as we are held in the Spirit's endless love; the Divine Presence with us in church and everywhere!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Do I need to pre-book?**
Yes. Pre-booked seats are essential. The church is an enclosed space, and we have a limit of 120 people attending so we can maintain the "density quotient" and 1.5 metre distancing required by Victoria's Last Step restrictions.
- **How do I book a seat online?**
You can book seats via TryBooking [here](#). A separate booking is required for each member of your family. For those not able to book online, please phone the church office and leave a message with your name and phone number. You will get a call back to confirm your booking.
- **How far in advance can I book?**
Each Monday at 9:00am bookings will be available for the following Sunday. Bookings will close at 4.00pm the Friday before the Sunday service.

- **What personal information do I need to give?**
In line with Victorian Government guidelines, we will collect names and phone numbers of everyone attending for contact tracing in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case.
- **What measures and cleaning standards are you putting in place to keep the congregation safe?**
 - Numbers attending worship are limited, facemasks inside are compulsory, and everyone must observe safe physical distance.
 - There is an additional cleaning schedule for surfaces and amenities and there are sanitising stations provided at the church.
 - Offering plates will not be passed around. We invite you to leave your offering in one of the donation boxes by the exterior doors as you leave.
 - Communion will not be celebrated until we receive further guidance from the Uniting Church.
 - We will not use printed orders of service. Responsive elements of the liturgy will be displayed on the screen. Or you could download and print an order of service from the website.
- **Will we be able to sing?**
Sadly, we will not be able to sing as a congregation, but we can 'sing in our hearts' as we listen to the cantors and read the words of the hymns. Initially we will project the recordings of the cantors that are used in the Online Gathering.
- **Will there be 'live' music?**
Yes! Rhys Boak, our organist and music manager will play, and guest musicians will offer music for reflection.
- **Will the minister wear a mask?**
There is an exemption from the mask rule for people engaged in public speaking, who need to be heard clearly. This applies to the Minister while leading worship, and lay people doing the readings or notices.
- **Where can I park?**
The Grand Hyatt Hotel car park on Russell Street (between Collins St and Flinders Lane) provides \$7.00 discounted parking for people attending Sunday Gatherings at St Michael's. Discount vouchers will be available at the welcome tables when you sign in.
- **What happens after church?**
We leave the building maintaining physical distancing. For now, we are not able to serve morning tea. People may gather in St Michael's Walk to chat afterwards. Please continue to wear your mask as lapses in physical distancing could inadvertently occur during conversation time. A small number of chairs will be set out for those not able to stand for long. The church will be closed 30 minutes after the service and people will be asked to say their farewells and disperse.

If you're unwell, please stay home and enjoy the Online Gathering.

Online Gatherings will continue for the foreseeable future. If you are not quite ready to come back to church, or if health, distance, or other commitments make it impossible, then please join us at <https://stmichaels.org.au/the-church/gatherings-reflections/>