LEVEL THREE ALERT

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki requirements for all clergy, employees and buildings owned by the Diocesan Trust Boards are as follows:

- No Public Services
- Pastoral Visiting: All pastoral contact should be maintained through telephone or other means of virtual contact.
- Clergy and lay employees: should continue to work from within their bubble.
- Use of Churches and associated Plant: Churches are to remain closed.
- Weddings and Funerals: May only be conducted by clergy who are not in a high-risk category and these clergy must seek the Bishop’s approval to preside at wedding and funeral services that meet the Government guidelines. This approval may be sought through your Archdeacon. Approval cannot be retrospective. You will also be asked to put this request in writing and the response will be provided in writing.

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1 These guidelines must be followed. Other ‘advice’ such as the view or request of a Funeral Director cannot over-ride these guidelines.

2 We have been advised that the Bishop, the Diocese and the Trust Boards are legally liable for your actions and the use of any building, including meeting the standards for the sanitation of a workplace under Alert Level 3. [https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19) (New Zealand Guidelines are being developed, so this link to the Australian site is offered as a detailed guide to best practice)

3 Clergy cannot seek permission to perform weddings or funerals under level 3 if they, or anyone in their bubble, are over 70 years of age, have underlying medical conditions, are pregnant, are in an aged care facility, or have difficulty accessing healthcare. The full guidance on at risk persons can be found here: [https://covid19.govt.nz/individuals-and-households/health-and-wellbeing/vulnerable-people/](https://covid19.govt.nz/individuals-and-households/health-and-wellbeing/vulnerable-people/)