



Gathering Newsletter



June 2020

When can our church start meeting again?

The answer to this question is not straight forward.

Even though Coronavirus restrictions have started to lift and churches can now reopen with no more than 50 people in attendance, many regulations (some below) are required by places of worship.

Venue:

The Gathering Church meets at the High School and the NSW government has said that 'there should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential.' Furthermore, 'community use of school facilities will recommence only for uses that are necessary for continuation of education and with principal's approval.' (This is unlikely to happen until term three at least.)

The Australian government has mandated the closure of community facilities, so it is not possible to hire an alternative venue. Also venues must display conditions of entry.

Physical distance:

Maximum of one person per 4 square metres.

Singing:

Avoid group singing. '*Singing*, aerosolizes respiratory droplets extraordinarily well. Deep-breathing while singing facilitates respiratory droplets getting deep into the lungs.'

Hygiene:

Adopt good hygiene practices. Eg. Reduce the passing round of objects such as Bibles, collection plates and communion cups.

There is much to consider before the Gathering church can start to meet again. Pray for God's timing in this matter. In the meantime, we trust everyone is enjoying their own form of 'church service' and communion with God.

However, small Bible study groups and prayer groups can recommence but under certain guidelines... ensuring social distancing and responsibility for personal hygiene, so we can care for one another and protect each other's health.

The following diagram (from Syndal Baptist Church) outlines measures for small home groups.



Our God is not socially distant. He longs to hear our prayers and answer them. He is the sovereign Lord of the universe!