



*For all things give thanks.*  
1 THESS 5:18

## RECEPTION OF COVID-19 VACCINE

My Dear Brothers and Sisters

Over recent days we have received the welcome news that the Pfizer Vaccine had arrived in Australia and that the AstraZeneca vaccine was in production and had been given approval for use in Australia.

It will not be long before our most vulnerable, our aged and our front-line workers will be able to receive the first doses in the fight against Covid-19. Believe you me, when my turn comes, I will be happy to receive the vaccine.

It does need to be recognised that whilst the vaccine is not a cure for the virus, it is a means by which all will be protected from the worst effects of the virus. While this national rollout is a good thing for our country, at the same time it is important to respect the decision of those individuals who may choose not to receive the vaccine, whether their reasons be medical or moral.

At present we do not have any indication of the long-term effectiveness of the vaccine, but I do ask you to consider the greater good in making your decision as to whether you will have the vaccine or not.

A number of people have asked questions regarding the ethical issues regarding the

vaccine and I invite you to read the statement that was issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Vatican) on 21 December 2020, which can be found at: [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20201221\\_nota-vaccini-anticovid\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html)

I encourage you all to hold in prayer those who have been so dramatically affected by the pandemic, those who are sick due to the virus, our frontline workers who care for them and especially those who have died and their families. In this time of Lent, may we be for those around us a sign of the compassion of God as we continue to be responsible for each other during this time.

I encourage you to keep safe and stay well.

Yours in the Lord

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