**Guidelines for Diocese & Parishes when using Social Media to broadcast Mass & Religious Ceremonies**

Many parishes have put in place or are considering the use of social media such a Facebook Live or Instagram Live to stay connected to parishioners.

With any technology, one has to consider the data protection implications. While not advocating any particular social media technology, data protection will be considered with regard to Facebook Live in these guidelines.

**What is Facebook Live?**

Facebook Live is a feature of Facebook social media, that uses the camera on your computer to record a mass or religious ceremony. The video is subsequently uploaded on to your parish Facebook page, allowing your parishioners to view it.

Once your video is uploaded it is being live streamed on the internet. Facebook will then automatically save your live broadcasts after they end, so the video will remain in the video section of your Facebook page allowing parishioners to view at any time.

**Data Protection Considerations:**

* Before you commence broadcasting, ensure to set your settings to your intended audience – public view to any subscriber of Facebook or do you want to limit transmission to a particular group?
* Set a retention period for your uploaded videos and then delete them. They should only be retained for as long as required.
* It is possible for viewers to post comments on the uploaded video – so keep an eye on comments.
* If any third parties are present in your video, it is important to gain their consent before uploading the video on to the parish social media page.
* In some cases, family members are requesting to live stream a funeral service. In these circumstances, the video can be uploaded to the family member’s social media page. The parish in this case does not need to obtain consent from any third party that is present in the video.
* If the parish is livestreaming the funeral service, at the request of the family, they must get consent of any third parties present in the video, before the video is uploaded on to the parish’s social media page.

