

Information on online platforms for group gatherings

There are many platforms you could use for an online prayer group or similar. Below we explain how to use a few of these platforms.

Zoom

Zoom is an online platform that will allow you to engage with your whole group via video chat. On a Zoom meeting all participants can see and hear each other. Note that with a free zoom account your meetings are limited to 100 people.

How to get started with Zoom

1. Go to Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>)
2. Sign up for an account (top right hand corner)
3. Enter you information and then follow the prompts in the email you receive to verify your account
4. If you wish to use Zoom on your phone or tablet download the app and sign in

Inviting people to a Zoom session

1. Open Zoom on your phone, tablet or computer with a webcam
2. Select 'My Account' in the top right hand corner
3. Select 'Meetings' from the left side navigation
4. Select 'Schedule a new meeting'
5. Enter the name, time and date of your meeting
6. Ensure that 'require meeting password' is ticked, this will ensure your meeting is safe and only invited people can join
7. Ensure video is ticked for host and participant
8. Select 'save'
9. From the page that loads copy the invitation link and send it in an email to all invitees.

Starting a Zoom session

1. Open Zoom on your phone, tablet or computer with a webcam
2. Select 'My Account' in the top right hand corner
3. Select 'Meetings' from the left side navigation
4. Find the correct meeting under upcoming meetings and click 'start'
5. Follow the prompts on screen to join the meeting and test your audio
6. As each participant joins the meeting their video will be added and you will be able to hear them.

Catholic Social

Catholic Social enables you to connect with your parish groups over a text discussion

How to get started with Catholic Social

1. Go to <https://app.catholic.social/>
2. Click 'sign up' in the top right corner
3. Enter your details and select 'sign up'
4. Follow the prompts in the email you receive to verify your account

Inviting people to a Catholic Social gathering

1. Email group members and invite them to sign up for Catholic Social following the above instructions and send their Catholic Social account name to you
2. Once you have received names start your own group by clicking the '+' button in the top right corner

3. Enter the name and information for the group, select 'private group' and click 'create'
4. Once group is created invite member by adding their names in the members section on the right hand side
5. Send an email inviting participants to join a discussion on Catholic Social at a designated time and date

Starting a Catholic Social session

1. At the designated time login to Catholic Social
2. On the left hand side select 'groups', from 'My Groups' open the appropriate group and start a discussion
3. Participants will be able comment with words, videos and images as you all engage in a discussion.

Things to consider

Given the private nature of chat rooms you will need to ensure that if youth are involved you get consent from their parents before inviting them online. Ensure the meeting is run in line with proper safeguarding practices including that there are two adults present at all times. A Safeguarding Risk assessment should be completed for this new activity.

To discuss this with the Archdiocesan Safeguarding team contact **3324 3752** or safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

**During difficult times we can be grateful for Small Blessings given and received.
Share yours at www.smallblessings.com.au**