

Message from Canon Mark

The Public celebration of Masses.

It is very good news that we are now able to have public celebrations of Mass. So that we can comply and keep safe in these times of Covid19 we have been issued guidelines from the Bishop's conference.

I will highlight the necessary points which will govern our celebrations of Mass and ask that we all learn to adapt and ensure that we all can come together for our celebrations.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you here in the parish.

Guidance for the Celebration of Mass

Introduction - The Government has announced that from 4th July 2020, communal acts of worship will be allowed in our Catholic Churches. This guidance, issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the Celebration of Mass, assumes that the general guidance published by the Conference, based on Government Guidance on the safe opening of Places of Worship for individual prayer, is in place. In particular, the maximum safe operating capacity of the church, based on social distancing guidelines, should be clearly signposted at the door and the number and position within the church of people attending at any one time should be overseen by volunteer stewards.

Social Distancing - IMPORTANT

The Government maintains that the 2m social distancing requirements should still be applied where possible. – any less everybody will be required to use facial coverings

Celebration of Mass within Church Buildings

- Holy Water stoups and all published material will remain unavailable. Until further instruction is given on singing, there should be no congregational singing at Mass.
- **Readers will be supplied with single-use gloves** and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning. The Prayer of the Faithful will be omitted.
- There should be **no offertory procession** of the gifts of bread and wine to the altar;
- There should be **no sharing of the collection plate** or bag during the service, **please place offerings in basket provided at the back of the cathedral or use the tap and go.**
- Members of the **congregation should not exchange the sign of peace.**
- After the prayer and its response “Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy,” the priest should hold up the Host to **the Congregation and say audibly “The Body of Christ” to which the people should respond “Amen.”** In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, **“The Blood of Christ” and again the people respond “Amen.”**
- **Holy Communion will be given silently in the hand only**, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. **People should wait in their pews** until instructed to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion by the Stewards, When they approach the priest, they should do so **with arms at “full stretch”** so that there is a good distance between the priest and the communicant. **Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible.** Having received Holy Communion, communicants should move back to their pews in an orderly manner.

Once Communion is complete, the priest returns to the altar and places the unused Hosts, without touching them, into the Tabernacle and he cleanses the sacred vessels himself in the usual way.