

**Updated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## **CHURCH CAPACITY IS 70 PEOPLE**

**FACEMASKS:** People coming to Church will have to wear a facemask or covering, which they will be permitted to lower to receive Holy Communion, before you leave

**Opening Times:-**

The church will be open 30 minutes before the start of the scheduled mass and close once the distribution of Holy Communion has finished.

***At the end of each mass the stewards will wipe down all the surfaces.***

*On Fridays prayer will be before the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration) and on First Fridays of the month the church will open at 9am*

**Procedures to follow**

- There will be a one-way system in place
  - Access to the church is by the main doors of the church
  - Doors are to be fastened back/kept open during the periods that the church is open
- A sanitising station is located in the Entrance porch.
- **Track and Trace information must now be given each time you come to church.**
- People are allowed to go into one of the **twenty benches** that are in use (*filling the space by the wall first (No more than 3 people on a bench [1 couple and 1 single] or a family living in the same house.*)
- Windows in the church will be open and need to remain open for ventilation
  - PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THE BLINDS, which includes raising and lowering them.
- Exiting the church will be by the side doors either through the side chapel or by the sacristy, remembering to sanitise your hands when leaving. Sanitising stations are located by both exit doors near to where you can place your mass offering.
- **The toilet is not available, except in emergencies and is accessed in the usual way.**

**TO AVOID BREACHING SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Please remember that there is a one-way system in place when entering and exiting the building and going and coming out must be avoided while you are in the building.
- You are requested not to kneel during any of the service – please either stand or sit
- People are allowed to make an offering and light a votive candle, but to avoid any issues with social distancing, please light them before finding a seat.
- **Once seated please face forward and do not turn around to engage in conversations.**
- PLEASE do not leave your seat to light votive candles OR to catch somebody's attention
- ***New guidance comes into force on 14<sup>th</sup> September which means if you gather in groups outside the church, before or after mass, each individual can be fined as well as the parish, so please can I ask you to respect the new rules.***

***I appreciate that there are many procedures to follow, but in these uncertain times it is essential that we attempt to keep everyone as safe as possible and maintain a Covid secure environment.***

***Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.***

### HOLY COMMUNION:

- ◇ **Holy Communion will be distributed after the final dismissal of the Mass and Reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is not permitted.**
- ◇ Holy Communion will be given as the Sacred Host only.
- ◇ The priest will wear a visor while distributing Holy Communion and sanitise his hands before and after distribution. (*An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will distribute Holy Communion in the hall, if required (having used gel and wearing a visor).*)
- ◇ The priest will receive Holy Communion at the usual point of Mass.
- ◇ The words: "The Body of Christ. Amen" will be said once at the beginning of distribution, from the altar. They will not be repeated for each communicant.
- ◇ Communicants will be directed to approach the altar and then leave the church directly after receiving Holy Communion without returning to their benches.
- ◇ Parishioners should avoid bringing shopping or other large personal items to church in order to avoid returning to their places after receiving.
- ◇ Communicants are instructed to adhere to the floor markings, with arms outstretched in order to maintain a reasonable distance from the minister.
- ◇ Communicants must avoid skin to skin contact with the minister's hands. If contact happens the minister is to pause and sanitise his hands.
- ◇ Communicants should deliberately step to one side and then place the Sacred Host in their mouth and then follow directions to leave the church.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- ◇ The vulnerable should carefully consider the wisdom of returning to Mass too soon. They are not obliged to do so. ***The Sunday obligation has not been re-instated.***
- ◇ Those who are able are encouraged to gather on a weekday rather than a Saturday evening or Sunday, to release the pressure on weekend Masses.
- ◇ Social distancing guidelines are in place (requiring the use of masks or face coverings)
- ◇ Church doors and windows will be left open.
- ◇ Volunteer welcomers/stewards will be on hand to direct hand sanitising on arriving and leaving, to direct people to benches and to encourage worshippers to maintain reasonable social distancing.
- ◇ Votive candles may be lit during private prayer (but only from a lit candle.)
- ◇ Single use newsletters may be used but must be taken home.
- ◇ The priest will be on the sanctuary – without deacons, servers, etc.
- ◇ One Reader may be used but they must wear a mask and gloves when they approach the lectern. The mask may be removed to read and must be replaced before stepping away from the lectern
- ◇ There will be no Prayers of Intercession, no Sign of Peace and no singing.
- ◇ There should be no handshakes or hugs etc. after services.
- ◇ **Collections basket will be located at the doors as you enter and leave the church.**
- ◇ **Lingering clusters of conversation in the porch or outside the church are to be avoided.**
- ◇ Volunteers are required to sanitise bench surfaces and doors etc. after each Mass.
- ◇ To avoid volunteers having to sanitise toilets after each individual use, they will remain closed and only be used in a genuine emergency.