



Dear parishioners,

Public worship is permitted again as of Saturday July 4th.

We will begin by holding Mass on the days we previously opened for private prayer – that is, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Mass will be at 9.30 am

Please note, we are restricted to a maximum of 100 people in church at any one time (due to the requirement for social distancing). Once that number has been reached, we would need to turn away anyone else. Hopefully that is unlikely to happen at a weekday Mass.

Attending Mass

When attending Mass at the present time, there are some guidelines which must be adhered to. In brief, these are:

1. Enter the church using the doors on the right of the porch, and sanitise your hands before entering the main body of the church (when leaving, use the doors to the left and sanitise your hands again as you depart).
2. It is a Government requirement that we take the name and contact telephone number of everyone attending Mass to facilitate the 'track and trace' scheme. Attached are a set of cards which you can print out and complete before coming to church – then simply give your card to one of the stewards. If you don't have access to a printer, you can give your name and 'phone number to a steward before you enter – but since this will take longer, we prefer you to use the card system if possible.
3. It is recommended to wear a face covering inside wherever 2 metres social distancing is not possible. This includes church.
4. When taking your seat, sit ONLY in the benches marked with a green cross. Avoid those with a red cross. Keep 1 at least one metre apart (except within your household group).

Holy Communion

Distributing Holy Communion represents special challenges at this time. The Bishops have given directions, which are outlined below.

1. Before he begins distributing Holy Communion, the priest will hold up the Host and say 'The Body of Christ' ONCE, to the whole congregation. **All respond together:** 'Amen'.
2. Wait in your pew until the ushers indicate that you should go forward. Remove your mask before the approaching the priest (and replace the mask once you have received. Do not leave used masks in church.
3. **Communion will be given silently.** All are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand out of consideration for the safety of others – in receiving Holy Communion please keep your arms at 'full stretch' to maintain a safe distance between yourself and the priest.

Sunday Mass

Returning to Sunday Mass holds particular challenges for us, as I have outlined in previous emails. We hope to be able to do this in weeks to come, and will keep you fully informed of progress. Meanwhile, for those of you able to attend one of our weekday Masses, I look forward to seeing you soon.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Richard