

## **REOPENING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP : WHAT TO EXPECT**

At this time, many of you will be looking forward to returning to church for the public celebration of Mass. When you do so, you will find that certain temporary measures have been put in place to make sure that you can attend safely and comfortably in the present circumstances.

Because social distancing guidelines are still in place (the 1-metre rule replaces the 2-metre rule on 4 July), the numbers able to attend church on any one occasion will be limited. For this reason people are encouraged, if possible, to attend weekday Mass as an alternative to Sunday. The Sunday obligation remains suspended until further notice.

For the time being, the Mass will be different from the way we are used to celebrating it. This is so as to ensure everyone's safety.

Thorough cleaning and sanitization will have to take place after each Mass, which means the number of Masses may have to be reduced for now.

***While we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioner should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space, since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.***

### **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

You should stay at home if you feel unwell. People who are vulnerable, or who feel unsure about returning to Mass, are under no pressure to do so at this time. Remember that the Sunday obligation has not yet been reinstated.

You will need to bring your own face covering. All people entering church must wear a face covering at all times.

You should avoid bringing any unnecessary items into church, e.g. shopping bags, as you will not be returning to your seat once you have received Holy Communion.

### **WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

You will be welcomed by a volunteer steward.

You will be directed to the hand sanitizer.

You will be directed to a bench. It may not be where you usually sit.

You must adhere to social distancing guidelines in place. Any children accompanying you must do the same.

Baskets will be available at the entrance for your weekly envelopes or other contributions.

Toilets will remain closed at all times except for a genuine emergency.

The piety stall will be closed.

There will be no holy water in the usual containers.

### **DURING MASS**

There will be no Sign of Peace.

There will be no singing.

For the moment, only the priest will normally be on the sanctuary. There will be no altar servers, readers or Ministers of Holy Communion.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy Communion will be distributed *after the final dismissal of the Mass*.

The words “The Body of Christ” and the reply “Amen” will be said only once at the beginning of the distribution. They will not be repeated for each person receiving Holy Communion.

The volunteer stewards will direct you to approach the altar to receive Holy Communion.

People receiving Communion will be instructed to approach the altar with their arms outstretched so as to maintain a reasonable distance from the priest.

You may receive the Sacred Host only in your hand, not on your tongue.

You must then step to one side, lower your face covering and place the Sacred Host in your mouth.

Then follow directions to leave the church immediately.

### **AFTER MASS**

Please take home any newsletters and Mass sheets which you have used.

Please do not gather in the church porch or on church property for conversations.

Continue to wear your face covering until you leave the area where other people are.

*Fr David Potter,*

*1 July 2020.*