

Guidance for the Celebration of Mass

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 the celebration of Mass, is in place. In particular, the maximum safe operating capacity of the church, based on social distancing guidelines, clearly signposted at the door and the number and position within the church of people attending at any one time will be overseen by volunteer stewards.

- Face masks and gloves are compulsory. Hand sanitisers are available and the entrance and exit.
- On arrival please give the Steward your name and contact details to assist with the Government's NHS 'Track and Trace' scheme.
- Please wait for the Steward to escort you to a pew.
- Until further instruction is given, there will be no congregational singing at Mass.
- Any worship aids (missalettes etc.) will be for single use and taken by the user when the Mass ends. They should not be left in the church at the end of Mass.
- Readers will be supplied single-use gloves and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary, apart from page turning.
- No offertory procession of the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.
- Offertory collection – Cash collection can be collected by the Stewards at the church exit, however we would be very grateful if offerings can be made via standing order. Please email chiswestmott@rcaos.org.uk for details.
- No sign of peace.
- The Communion Rite - After the prayer and its response "*Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy,*" Fr Mario will present the Host to the Congregation and say audibly "*The Body of Christ*" to which the people should respond "*Amen.*" This will be repeated for "*Blood of Christ*" where the congregation respond "*Amen*".
- As the congregation have acclaimed the presence of the Lord, the People's Communion will be distributed in silence with no dialogue between minister and communicant.
- Please stay in your pews until Stewards indicate it is safe to receive Holy Communion.
- Communion will be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing and avoiding physical contact.
- Please approach with your arms at full stretch and palms facing upwards. Return to your pew immediately without visiting the votive candles, to allow the next communicant to visit the altar.
- After the Final Blessing, please wait in your pew for the Steward to indicate it is safe to sanitise your hands before departure.
- It will not be possible to speak to Fr Mario after Mass. If you need to contact Fr Mario, please call 020 8467 2325 or email chiswestmott@rcaos.org.uk
- Please remember the 2-metre distancing requirement and do not congregate outside the church.

- Thank you for your support and co-operation.