

Coming back to Mass at Our Lady's

We are delighted that we can come back to our church to celebrate Mass but please be aware that the pandemic is not over and to ensure the safety of all church users we have made many changes to how things are done. Please try to accept where we are now and avoid the temptation to compare with 'how it used to be'. What we are doing now is a step in the right direction but the reality is we have no idea how long the restrictions may be in place so we ask that you embrace our new style celebration and enjoy the opportunity to worship together and receive the Eucharist we have been deprived of for so long.

There continues to be no Sunday obligation so every Mass Sunday-Saturday will be the same. Masses on Saturdays and Sundays will be for those people who cannot come during the week because they are working and/or they have children at school.

The Mass will be no longer than 30 minutes.

Changes that you will see.

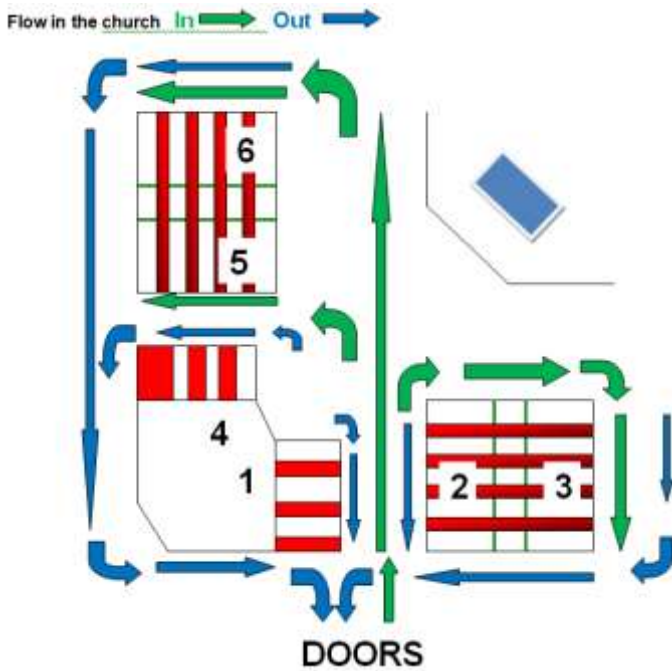
- You are advised to wear a mask and gloves (please note that we are maintaining 2m social distancing in the church so this is not mandatory as it would be if we reduced to 1m)
- If you are not wearing gloves you will be asked to use the alcohol gel on arrival and exit from the church.
- It will take longer to get into the church so please arrive in plenty of time. Mass will start at 10am and any movement in the church after that time will be distracting to other parishioners.
- You will be directed to a pew. Large families will be in the front pews to make it easier to give them communion in the pew.
- The toilets **are not** available in the hall.
- Masses will continue to be live streamed and recorded daily. There is a portal in the church in front of the altar.
- No singing at any Mass – music will be played as people come into the church and as they leave and during the distribution of communion. **Please do not join in with any singing.**
- No Gloria
- Only one reading – we will endeavour to have the psalm for the day recorded. **Please do not join in**
- Short homily or reflection
- No Creed
- No prayers of the faithful (bidding prayers) These will continue to be sent out by email and posted on the website.
- The book of intentions is permanently on the altar. If you want an intention included please bring it written down and place in the basket just inside the church.
- No collection being taken. If you wish to bring your offerings please drop them into the basket just inside the church.
- Eucharistic prayer 2 which is the shorter prayer.
- Only Fr Euloge can give out communion with Eucharistic Ministers – Fr Tom is advised not to because of his age. Communion will only be the Body of Christ. There is no chalice with the Precious blood for the congregation.
- The Priest will elevate the Body and Blood of Christ at the altar saying 'The Body of Christ' and 'The Blood of Christ' to which we all say 'Amen'.
- Parishioners will remain in their pews and communion will be taken to them by the Priest and EMs. You stand at the end of your pew and extend your hands out. The minister will extend their hand out and drop the host into your hand. This is done in silence.

- No announcements other than the steward directing the exit of parishioners at the end of the Mass. You are asked to remain in your pew until directed by the steward to leave.
- You need to leave promptly – the priests will not be in the porch. Any chats you may wish to have with fellow parishioners should be outside of the church and maintaining social distance.

Please note that we have been given advice from the Bishops about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and we will be giving you information about how to access that sacrament very soon. Our priority was to get things ready to have Mass.

There is no new information at present about any other sacrament including Baptism and as soon as we have that information we will let you know what arrangements will be made.

The flow of movement in and out of the church is indicated on the diagram on the next page:



The red pews are blocked from use to maintain the 2m social distance. People will leave the church in the numerical order of the blocks indicated and will follow the instructions of the stewards.

If you have any questions please email Trish or ring her on 07801 752141.