

Cautious Re-opening of Churches for Public Worship

The Archbishop will give permission for churches to re-open for Mass and other public services beginning on Monday 6th July under the strict conditions set out below for the prevention of infection and the protection of those attending.

Permissions will be reversed should rates of infection rise. This is not a return to business as usual.

1. Each church will have a limited number of people who can be in the building.
2. Only one church can be used if a parish contains multiple churches.
3. A church can only be opened for Mass once it has been made ready and has been officially approved. A risk assessment and other documentation must be completed.

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 might be encouraged to gather on a weekday rather than a Saturday evening or Sunday, to release the pressure on weekend Masses.
- Social distancing guidelines are still in force.
- Church doors and windows will be left open.
- Volunteer stewards are required to 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.
- There will be no Sign of Peace.
- There will be no singing.
- There should be no handshakes or hugs etc. after services.
- Lingering clusters of conversation in the porch or outside the church must be avoided.
- Volunteers are required to sanitise bench surfaces and doors etc. after each Mass. That may mean the number of Masses needs to be reduced depending on the number of volunteers.
- Church toilets are to remain closed and only be used in a genuine emergency.

- Parishioners should avoid bringing shopping or large personal items to church.
- Reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is not permitted.
- The times of Masses may change to help people attend Mass during the week.

FACEMASKS:

- People coming to Church will have to wear a facemask, which they will be permitted to lower to receive Holy Communion.

VOLUNTEERS:

- A team of Parish Volunteers to be recruited.
- If not enough people are recruited the number of Masses celebrated should be reduced.
- Role of the Volunteer: welcome people, assist people to sanitise hands, show people to their place in church, moderate the flow of people at Holy Communion, sanitise the church after each Mass/Service.

If you can volunteer please inform the presbytery:

0151 928 3471

englishmartyrs@rcaolp.co.uk

Please leave your name and contact details.

Canon Mark Madden
26th June 2020