

## **COVID-19 AND ATTENDING MASS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**1. What are the most important things to remember at this time?**

If you or a member of your household have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 you **must** stay at home. Please do not come to church. If you have been advised to isolate or are particularly vulnerable you must stay at home. If you are 70+ years old you should follow the Government guidelines.

**2. When can we return to Mass?**

Masses began on 4/5th July at St Peters Church. The Mass times are:

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30 pm

Sunday Masses at 11.30 am

Weekday Masses are normally: Mon 8.30am, Tues 7pm, Wed to Sat 10am (but may change, so check in advance)

**3. Do I have to “book” in order to attend?**

No but we would like you to contact us and tell us which Mass you will attend, providing your name and contact details. We have a total of 150 places. Should numbers exceed our limit, seats will be allocated first to those who have contacted us in advance.

**4. Why do you need my name and contact details?**

We are obliged to comply with Government Test & Trace regulations, which require that we keep contact details of those who attend each of our Masses. If you have not already provided your details, you will be asked to fill in a Test & Trace form. Your details will be used only by the NHS in case of an outbreak. They will be kept securely for a period of 21 days from the date of the last Mass you attended, after which they will be destroyed.

**5. Will I be able to sit in my usual spot or wherever I like?**

No. You will have to wait to be seated by a steward. You will have no choice in where you sit. Available seats will be filled up row by row in an orderly fashion as stewards seat family households, couples and individuals. In this way, we will maintain social distancing and ensure that we can safely seat the maximum number of people.

**6. Will there be the same number of seats available as usual?**

No. Every second row of seats has been closed off and a strict space of two meters must be kept between every family household or individual and the next family household or individual. To maintain social distancing remain sitting or standing during Mass

**7. Will I be able to use the toilets?**

No. The toilets will be locked. Please make sure that you go to the toilet before coming to Mass.

**8. Will the church be cleaned?**

Yes. The church is cleaned every day after each service

**9. Which doors must I use to enter the church?**

Enter the church by the left-hand side door and leave by the right. You must not enter by any other doors. Stewards will be at each entrance.

**10. What is the first thing that I must do when I arrive?**

Pray. As you cross the threshold into this sacred space, thank Jesus for being able to come into His presence and to meet Him again in word and sacrament.

**11. What is the second thing I must do?**

Sanitise your hands. Please use the single pump of the hand sanitiser which will be available at the entrance doors.

**12. And the third thing?**

If you haven't done so already, you may put on your face mask or covering. This can be worn throughout the celebration of Mass.

**13. And then what will happen?**

Respecting social distancing measures, please queue and wait to be seated by one of the stewards. This may take a little time. Please remain in your place while you are in church. We must avoid breaking the social distance limit. Please talk to your friends outside church after Mass.

**14. What if a member of the family has special needs?**

If you or a member of your family are in a wheelchair or have a disability, please make yourself known to a steward and you will be seated immediately.

**15. Will I be able to receive Holy Communion or come up for a blessing?**

Yes of course. Communion will be hand to hand only and distributed at the end of Mass. Hold your arms outstretched as far as possible and keep your palms flat. Do not come forward until asked by the steward and leave church directly after receiving communion do not return to your seat

**16. Which doors must I use to exit the church?**

The exit is via the side aisle on the left as you face the back of church. You must not exit by any other doors except in an emergency. A steward will be at the door. Please hand sanitise as you leave

**17. What about my offering for the running and support of the parish?**

We thank you for the offering you give this day. There will be baskets for you to place your offering in as you enter or leave.

**18. Will I be able to chat to the priest after Mass?**

Sadly, not at the moment. For the time being, the priests will not come outside as we would normally do because we do not want to risk people congregating around us and breaking social distance rules. But if you want to speak to us, please do ring. If we can help you in any way, we will.

***We look forward to seeing at Mass.  
May God bless and protect you, your families and friends.***