

Covid 19 from February 2022

Although the compulsory restrictions have been relaxed, the Parish Covid Group, following advice from the Bishops of England and Wales, the Archdiocese of Cardiff and with the full support of the PAC, have decided that we will continue to adopt a cautious approach to how we celebrate the Liturgy and use the church hall (annex).

Our aim is to keep everyone safe and to re-assure those in our community who are most at risk, that we will do nothing to compromise their well-being by relaxing too quickly the safe regime we have worked so hard to maintain over the past 2 years. Therefore the following measures will remain in place and we ask all parishioners over the age of 16 years to co-operate for the sake of our fellow worshippers.

1. **SYMPTOMS.** The symptoms of Covid remain the same e.g. persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell, and we ask anyone suffering from these symptoms not to attend Mass for 5 days or until they have received a negative test.
2. **HAND HYGIENE.** We will continue to provide hand sanitiser at all entrance and exit points and remind parishioners that they should sanitise their hands when moving from the church into the sacristy or from the church into the hall. Children should also be encouraged to use hand sanitiser.
3. **FACE COVERING.** We ask all parishioners to continue to wear a face covering whilst indoors respectfully reminding everyone that a face covering is effective in protecting others in close proximity. Surely it is the duty of all to protect those most at risk.
4. **SOCIAL DISTANCING.** We will encourage everyone to remember how effective social distancing has been in reducing transmission of the virus and although not a formal requirement, we ask parishioners to continue to avoid gathering in large groups within the building. Please also be respectful of those who may still feel that they would like to remain socially distanced from other households. For anyone who feels that social distance is of particular value, the 8.00 am Sunday Mass still allows for space between households to be maintained.
5. **USE OF THE HALL (ANNEX).** We expect the serving of tea and coffee to resume after the 10.00am Mass. However we ask all users of the hall to continue to wear face masks whilst moving to and from their seats and to be conscientious about use of hand sanitiser.
6. **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.** Singing is now permitted, but face masks should be worn, apart from the members of the choir who are few in number and who may remove their face coverings when singing.
7. **VENTILATION.** Ventilation of the church and hall (annex) should continue as now, keeping as much fresh air flowing through the building as possible, but mindful of extremely cold weather.
8. **FORMAL STEWARDING.** As most people are fully aware of the precautions in place to keep them safe, stewards are not required, except for very busy times e.g Christmas and Easter.
9. **THE LITURGY.** The Liturgy, including more frequent hand sanitising by the celebrant and other ministers sharing sacred vessels or equipment will continue as now. Holy Communion will remain under one kind for now.

We hope that everyone will be supportive and reassured by this cautious approach. We ask for a little more patience from some, to enable the return to Mass of those who may not have felt confident enough to enjoy the Liturgy in person, safe in the knowledge that the parish is doing all it can to play its part to bring this pandemic to an end.