

# What to expect when you come to Mass at St Mary's during the pandemic.

## Important

Please note that the current capacity of St Mary's church is around 60 people, so please respect the instructions from the stewards should capacity be reached.

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## Coming into church

- ~ you will be greeted by stewards
  - ~ Please sanitise your hands
  - ~ Social distance
  - ~ A request for silence
  - ~ invitation to light a candle on arrival
  - ~ Please fill the church from the front
  - ~ Please sit in a bench on your own or together only with those in your own household.
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## During Mass

Mass will be more or less as usual ~ however we will omit the offertory procession, collection, singing and the sign of peace.

## Reception of Holy Communion

- ~ After the "Behold the Lamb of God.." prayer said by the priest and the corresponding response "Lord I am not worthy to receive you..." said by the people, the priest will hold up the host and say audibly; "The Body of Christ" to which the people should respond together; "Amen". The priest will then do the same with the chalice and elevate it saying: "The Blood of Christ" to which the people respond together: "Amen".
- ~ After the priest has received Holy Communion, the stewards will invite you forward to form a "social distanced" procession.
- ~ Communion should be received in silence with no dialogue between the priest (or Minister) and the communicant.
- ~ There will be a prie-dieu (kneeler) or table between the priest and the communicant to enable social distancing to be maintained.
- ~ Communion will be given silently and in the hand only.

- ~ The Communicant must stand to receive Holy Communion
- ~ The Communicant should approach the priest (or Minister) with arms at “full stretch”.
- ~ The Communicant’s hands should be palms upwards, one on top of the other and extended as flatly as possible.
- ~ There is to be no physical contact.
- ~ Having received Holy Communion, communicants should move back to their pews in an orderly manner.

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### **At the end of Mass,**

- ~ please sit down at the end of Mass
- ~ please leave your bench only when invited to do so by the stewards
- ~ please leave by the exit pointed out to you by the stewards
- ~ please leave in an orderly way
- ~ allow for social distancing.
- ~ please refrain from conversation until outside the church

**The stewards will sanitise the church straight after Mass before it can be used again.**

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### **Thank You**

Thanks so much for your understanding and cooperation with these requirements to enable us to confidently celebrate Mass in public during this Pandemic

Fr David