

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 80 people, so please respect the instructions from the stewards should capacity be reached.

Coming into church

This will be the same as for private prayer;

- ~ A single entrance
 - ~ you will be greeted by stewards
 - ~ Please sanitise your hands
 - ~ Social distance
 - ~ A one way system
 - ~ A request for silence
 - ~ invitation to light a candle on arrival
 - ~ 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.

At the end of Mass,

Please do leave the church:

~ as soon as possible,

~ following the one-way system,

~ by the exit only,

~ in an orderly way

~ and allow for social distancing.

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

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