

The Resumption of The Public Celebration of Holy Mass at St Mary's, Studley on Saturdays at 5.00pm

Please read the following information carefully, it is there to protect you & others at Mass. If we fail to follow the guidelines & operating methods & someone becomes ill with the virus after attending Mass it is likely that the government Track & Trace agency will put all those who attended on that day into 15 day self-isolation, including our priest & deacon.

What will be different?

The Government has announced that Public celebration of Holy Mass can resume on 4th July, as long as social distancing and hygiene guidelines are adhered to.

We have worked hard to meet both government & Archdiocese guidelines to enable us to reopen on 22nd August for Saturday Mass.

Delays to our reopening were caused by the extensive restoration work to the sacristy floor & altar steps but we are now ready to proceed.

BUT there is no going back to normal. We must return safely & with care, complying with all the legal requirements & restrictions imposed on us by the Government, Bishop's Conference & our own Archdiocese. Failure to do so could result in local Public Health or national Government enforcing the closure of our Church.

To implement the social distancing and hygiene regulations, you will find that the Church looks very different, with areas taped off & restricted entry to the sacristy, cloister & presbytery. The holy water stoup has been removed for hygiene purposes.

The toilets will not be available

Booking to come to Mass

The 1 Metre Plus social distancing rule means that the numbers of people able to be in Church at the same time will be limited. We will be able to use 12 benches to seat 1 individual OR 2 individuals not from the same household or bubble (but with face masks & 1 metre apart) OR a family group/bubble of a maximum of 4 on each bench.

To comply with all the guidelines, we have decided to run a booking system. Booking will be by telephone each Monday between 10.00 am– 11.00am. Please call Lin Rea on 01527 545460. **Please do not leave answer phone messages.** Please keep trying to get through – each booking takes time as track and trace details need to be recorded. Your call will be answered eventually.

TRACK AND TRACE

When booking, you will be asked to leave your name, and contact details (phone number, email address & home address) so that in the event of a Covid case arising, we can pass the data about who has attended Mass to the Government Track & Trace agency. All contact data will be stored securely, in compliance with GDPR regulations.

The government has advised that contact details be kept for everyone who comes to Mass or Sacramental Services, for a period of 21 days. That information will be destroyed after 21 days. It will be made available to the Track and Trace Service if they contact the Parish to request that information. It will only be made available to any third party if that is required by law.

Face Coverings (Masks)

Face coverings are compulsory for everyone attending Mass. Everyone waiting in the car park must wear a face covering, and no-one will be able to enter the church without wearing a face covering.

Please bring your own face covering

What will happen when you come to Mass?

You must not come to Mass if you feel unwell, especially if you have a high temperature or a new, continuous cough or loss or change in your normal sense of smell or taste.

People who have booked to attend a Mass should arrive at least 10 minutes early & wait in their cars (or at 1 Metre plus apart in the car park) to be called forward to enter the Church.

Before entering the Church, a steward will check that your name is on the booking list. If it is not, you will not be allowed to come into the Church

Another steward inside the Church will:

- (1) Ask you to sanitise your hands at the automatic hand sanitising station at the back of Church, and then will
- (2) Direct you to your seat. Once seated you will not be able to move around, or leave the Church until the Mass is finished, unless it is an emergency.

There will be no altar servers or ministers of communion. There will be no singing, no Order of Service cards, no bulletins, no votive candles and no coffee afterwards. There will be no singing, no Offertory collection (there will be a basket for offerings at the back of the Church), and no sign of peace. But on the plus side the homily will be short!

Holy Communion will be given at the end of the Mass, after the final blessing, so that you can leave the Church immediately afterwards – without returning to your seat. This does mean that you will need to take all personal belongings with you when directed by a steward to leave your seat and receive Holy Communion. Any lost property will not be kept.

Your face covering, which may be lowered to receive Holy Communion, must be raised again to cover your mouth and nose immediately afterwards, and must be kept so as you leave Church and the car park. You will be asked to sanitise your hands again as you leave the Church.

If anyone falls ill after worshipping at the church, you (or your representative) are requested to inform the parish of your circumstances (giving details, if possible, of the time and date of their visits to the church). The parish would then be responsible for posting on the website, bulletin and in Church a notice encouraging those who have been on the premises on those days to seek a test and not to attend the church. This would be done without disclosing any personal information.

In the event of someone falling ill whilst at church, normal first aid rules apply. If there is any doubt an ambulance will be called. Anyone assisting the sick person would need to wear PPE consisting of a face mask, gloves and an apron.

Must I Come To Mass?

Do not feel pressured to come to Mass if it is not the right time for you. Our individual situations and experiences of the lockdown mean that it is for you to decide. To help you decide:

- the Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, and;
- many churches will continue to live stream over the Internet Holy Mass throughout the week & on Sunday.

Please be patient with us & with each other; we all feel nervous about venturing into this uncharted territory. Let us help each other as we come together again to praise the Lord.

Volunteers Are Still Needed!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be a steward & attended the training session. Without them we could not open for Mass.

It's not too late! We still need more stewards – the more we have the less often you will be on the rota & if you are a steward you will have your place at Mass – no need to book! Please think about volunteering.

People over 70, and with no underlying health issues, are now able to volunteer.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Father Benedict on the Parish answer phone 01527 852524 or email stmarysstudley@gmail.com. Training will be given & PPE supplied.