

## **How to come to Mass during the Covid-19 pandemic**

The number of people attending Mass has risen dramatically so it is **essential** that you book a place and not just turn up!

Churches will be open for Mass at the usual Sunday Mass times (including the 5pm Saturday evening Mass at St Basil's).

However, our primary concern is your health and safety so please **DO NOT** come to Mass if:

- You have cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms
- You have a health condition that requires you to be near a toilet at all times as our toilets have had to be made out of bounds.
- You know your young children will not be able to sit still and quiet for the duration of the Mass because we cannot allow children to run round our churches.

Coming to Mass will be a very different experience to before.

First of all you will need to have booked a place by e-mailing the box office for the church at which you wish to attend Mass. Please see the document 'How to book a place at Mass' on the homepage of our website.

When you come to church:

- There may be a queue outside. Please be patient and make sure you are 2 metres away from the person in front.
- A Steward who will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will greet you. Please show them the e-mail confirming you have a place at that Mass. They will ask if you have any cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms and take your temperature. If you do have symptoms or your temperature exceeds 38°C you will be asked to return home.
- Once you are admitted you will be asked to sanitise your hands using your elbow to operate the lever and read the instructions on the hand sanitising station.
- As you enter the church please familiarise yourself with its new look. There will be a one-way system marked by signs on the floor; please make sure you follow it. Some pews have been

taped off; please only sit on those that haven't. Members of the same household will be able to sit together on one pew. Others will be asked to sit 2 metres away from people they do not live with (2 metre distances are marked by signs saying 'Sit here')

- During your time in the church you must stay in the same place. You must not move around the church; you must not enter the sanctuary; you must not touch the statues; you must not light any candles.
- The queue for Communion will be socially distanced. On the central aisles in each church there are black and yellow markers on which people queuing for Communion will stand. You must not leave your pew until you are invited to do so and must go to stand on a marker. After Mass you must remain in your pew until invited to leave the church at which time you will follow the one-way system out of the doors that say 'Exit only' and sanitise your hands using your elbow to operate the lever before you leave.

Our most vulnerable parishioners are encouraged to attend weekday Masses rather than Sunday Masses. There is no need to book a place at weekday Masses, so those who have no internet access can also attend.

This will be a very strange experience for all of us as we have never known this situation before and we don't know how long it will last. However, we will soon get used to it, and, if we are cooperative and civil it will soon become the 'new normal'.

God bless you all and welcome home!

Fr. Daniel Kelly  
Parish Priest