

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Guidelines for parishioners attending Mass during the Covid-19 pandemic

Welcome back to Mass!

Churches can now resume celebrating Mass so long as they adhere strictly to the social distancing, hand sanitizing and cleaning guidelines issued by the Government and reiterated by the Diocese.

Commencing on Saturday 11 July OLL will begin with three Masses per week as follows: **6pm Saturday, 10am Sunday, and 7pm Wednesday.**

As You Arrive

Stewards will be on hand at the entrance, and to assist within the Church if needed. Please follow their instructions at all times both outside and within the Church.

A one-way system is in operation which means entering by the front door only and leaving by the side door by the Upper Room stairs.

For Track and Trace purposes the Parish must keep for 21 days a record of your name and contact details for each Mass you attend. Regretfully you cannot enter the Church without giving this information. Please try and complete the Diocese Track and Trace form before arriving for Mass. ([A template for such a card is attached](#))

If you are unable to print your own form, copies will be available at the church before Mass but please bring a pen with you to complete before entering the Church.

It may be necessary to queue in the front car park so please come prepared and adhere to the social distancing marks.

The capacity for each Mass is based on **52 individual parishioners** socially distancing 2m.

Couples and families can sit close together in a pew but they must maintain a distance of 2m from any other non-family individual in the same pew. In this case we may have more than 52 parishioners attending. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Once the maximum number of parishioners as determined by the stewards is reached it will be necessary to ask any others to leave the car park and return for one of the other Masses. If this happens to you please do not take offence as it is necessary for compliance with social distancing guidelines and for the safety of all of us.

Inside the Church

Please use the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance and exit. Avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces.

You are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Pews not in use are taped off and those in use are marked to seat 3 individuals attending on their own.

Pews may be entered from both the central aisle and the side aisles. Please sit in the middle if you are first to enter a pew. This will help to avoid subsequent parishioners having to squeeze past people sitting at the ends of the pews.

With a parish family in excess of 500 we would ask you to attend only one Mass per week so as to allow as many others as possible to attend. The obligation to attend a Sunday Mass remains suspended and video streamed masses will continue across the diocese that you can join.

A basket will be positioned on the way to the exit to receive the weekly offertory collection.

The toilets will not be in use.

Do not congregate in the churchyard after Mass, please leave immediately.

If you develop any Covid-19 symptoms within a week of attending Mass, in addition to following Government guidelines, please let Father Emeka know.

Volunteers Still Needed

The increased opening times of the church for Mass and the greater stewarding and cleaning requirements will need more volunteers than have previously registered. Please do consider if you are able to help at or around the proposed Mass times every couple of weeks or so and let Father Emeka know on lee@rcaos.org.uk in the next few days.