

Safe Use of Places of Worship

The First Minister announced recently changes to be observed for the safe use of places of worship from 00.01 on Friday 17 December. The main change is the extending of the social distance to two metres for certain groups exempt from wearing a face covering, and for everyone else of at least 1 metre. We are also compelled to carry out a risk assessment to ensure the safety of those who come to church and to encourage Lateral Flow Testing before attending services and gatherings.

Those responsible for a place of worship must take such measures as are reasonably practicable, to minimise the risk of the incidence and spread of coronavirus on the premises.

The Scottish Government is hugely grateful for the efforts and collaboration of Scotland's faith and belief communities in continuing to follow best practice guidance in places of worship. We are grateful to the Scottish Government for its confidence in our good practice and most appreciative that we can continue to worship without restriction on the number of parishioners wishing to attend church each week, knowing that the health and safety of everyone is taken seriously and the risk assessment reviewed ongoing.

At St Cadoc's, we will observe strictly the regulations of the Scottish Government and the directives of the Working Party of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

From 00.01 on Friday 24 December the following regulations will be observed until Friday 29 April 2022:

Instructions for health and wellbeing and safe use of parish property:

1. If you can walk to church, please do so to reduce the number of cars using the car park.
2. Please arrive early and be seated at least 10 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin.
3. Everyone will be required to sanitise their hands before entering church property and encouraged to do so when leaving.
4. Face coverings are compulsory for all who are over 12 years of age. The covering must cover both the mouth and the nose at all times when in the building.
5. Please maintain a respectful distance of at least 1 metre.
6. People with medical exemptions will be seated in an area designated for social distancing of 2 metres.
7. Details for Track and Trace will be required for registration.
8. Attendees will be directed to their seats by the pass-keepers and also to come forward for Holy Communion and when exiting the building.
9. We will operate a one-way system on entering and leaving the property.
10. Please follow the directions of the pass-keepers at all times and treat them with respect.
11. Natural ventilation and air purifiers continue to be an effective means of keeping everyone safe at St Cadoc's. Please dress appropriately when coming to church to ensure that you are warm and protected.

Changes to the Liturgy:

1. Bulletins will be provided for each household with important information as well as responses and hymns for Mass.
2. Offerings will continue to be encouraged using Standing Orders, Payment Portals or envelopes in the boxes provided.
3. The use of quiet music will be used prior to and at the end of Mass.
4. The Mass will be celebrated in a timely, solemn, reverential and meaningful way, with the full participation of the faithful through prayer and song.
5. A full participation of the various ministries will be encouraged.
6. The norm for receiving Holy Communion during Mass will be on the hand and for those who choose to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, after Mass.
7. Please avoid crossing over to another lane for Communion.
8. Those wishing to receive a blessing can do so from the priest or the Eucharistic Minister by crossing their arms over their chest.

In the months to come, we will review these procedures to ensure that we are following good practice and keeping people safe. I ask, please, for your PATIENCE and full CO-OPERATION. Canon Eddie

Bishops' of Scotland Pastoral Letter
The Restoration of the Mass Obligation in the Diocese of Scotland

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation will be reinstated from Sunday 2nd January, the first of the new year.

In accordance with the common teaching of the Church this obligation does not bind those in ill health or those otherwise impeded from attending Mass. Nor, in the context of COVID, does it bind those showing symptoms of the virus or with underlying health conditions, or those with responsibilities for people in need of special care.

The obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy by attending Mass should not be seen as a burden. It is a summons addressed to our human freedom and to the heart of every baptised member of the Church.

The obligation call us to come to the Father together without fellow-believers, to "listen to the Word of God and to take part in the Eucharist, calling to mind the passion, resurrection and the glory of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God who 'has begotten [us] to a living hope, through the resurrection of Christ from the dead'" (SC,106) Sunday Mass can reinvigorate and refresh our Christian faith, our sense of community and our desire to live as missionary disciples in the world. This is why the Church takes this obligation seriously.