

Ss. Mary and Modwen Catholic Church

LATEST COVID GUIDANCE – Update (1.9.2021)

Covid-19 legal restrictions were removed by the Government with effect from 19.7.2021. However, the Prime Minister has clearly stated that “**The Pandemic is not over**”. Therefore, in line with the Bishops’ Conference and Archdiocesan Guidance and our on-going duty of care for all our parishioners the Parish will be continuing with the following practices to help minimise risk and provide confidence and comfort for our parishioners as we cautiously return to normal:

- **FACE COVERING** - Please continue to wear a face mask whilst in church.
- **HAND SANITISER** - Please sanitise your hands on entering the church.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** – To increase capacity within church we have reduced our requirement for social distancing to approx. 1 metre, where possible. As a consequence of this change it is **no longer necessary to book a place at Mass**. Stewards will aim to seat parishioners on alternate rows of benches. **However, if there is a high demand for places it may be necessary to use more benches which may reduce the social distancing measure. Stewards will continue to seat parishioners to minimise risks in a manageable way.**
- **TEST AND TRACE:** We will continue to record contact details for people attending Mass.
- **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING** - We have re-introduced singing during Mass albeit whilst **wearing face coverings**. Hymn books will be available at the back of Church for use at Sunday Masses. Each Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass will have a separate set of hymn books which means hymn books will only be used once, at one Mass each weekend to reduce the risk of infection. Please return the hymn book to the back of Church at the end of Mass.
- **MASS SHEETS AND PARISH NEWSLETTER** – Are now available, if you pick up a Mass sheet and newsletter as you enter the Church please take both with you when you leave the Church. Mass sheets and newsletters are single use and will not be reused at the next Mass.
- **ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNION** – The distribution of Holy Communion will now take place during the Mass. However, to enable the safe movement of people around the church, the stewards will guide you to the altar **starting from the back of the church, one side of the church at a time**. You will be directed up the side aisles and back down the centre aisle to your place. Please follow the guidance of the stewards and remain in your seats until indicated to move forward to the altar.
- **EXITING THE CHURCH:** At the end of Mass, to enable the safe passage of people out of the building, stewards will guide you **from the back of the church and out through one of the exits**. Please remain in your seats until a steward indicates for you to move towards the exits.
- **OFFERTORY & SECOND COLLECTIONS** – Are now taken during and at the end of Mass respectively. The collection bags will be handled only by the stewards to reduce the risk of infection.
- **VOTIVE CANDLES** – Are available for private intentions. Please respect social distancing measures.
- **PARISH CENTRE TOILETS** – Are accessible from within Church. There will not be access to the Parish Hall at this stage.

In addition to the above there may be further easing of restrictions to the way we celebrate Mass and these will be introduced over the coming weeks. Thank you for your co-operation at this time.