

GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH

The Principles established by the government to enable safe re-opening of churches have been incorporated into this guideline. When you come to the Church there will be signs and Stewards to assist you.

It remains a person's own choice to come to church to pray. This act of praying safely is a significant step towards the resumption of the celebration of Mass and the sacraments.

We have the capacity to accommodate 48 people at one time in the church. There will be reserved seats for disabled and vulnerable people. If the church is full you may be asked to wait in your car till the Steward lets you in.

While children are unlikely to become very ill, they are capable of both being infected by the virus and of spreading it. Parents or guardians bringing children into the church are not discouraged from doing so, but it will be important for parents to manage their children appropriately, particularly ensuring they touch as few surfaces as possible for their own safety. Only bring children if you can maintain the responsibility for them following the instructions.

If choosing to come to Church to pray the following safety procedures are to be followed

- You are to follow the signs and also the Instructions of the Stewards.
- Follow the one-way system as marked in the church.
- Try to cover your face either using a cloth or face mask. Respiratory secretions (droplets) containing the virus are likely to be the most important means of transmission; these are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Using a face mask at this time is not a disrespectful action to prayer or the sacred space because it is intended to protect oneself and the other.
- Sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church. Make sure that your hands are dry after sanitising.
- People who are part of the same household can sit together in a place where the stewards direct you but those not from the same household should maintain social distancing while in church.
- Note: You are not allowed to use any of the service books, hymn books, CTS pamphlets etc.
- Don't touch or physically venerate statues or relics.
- Try to avoid touching benches and surfaces.
- Toilet facilities will **remain closed** to prevent any risk of transmission of infection.
- You are allowed to light candles and pray. But make sure that you sanitise your hands before and after touching the candles and matches (again make sure that your hands are dry). Drop the donations in the boxes provided.
- Remember that the alcohol sanitiser is highly inflammable. Extra care is to be taken when lighting candles on votive stands using existing candles as a source of ignition.
- **People with cold or flu-like symptoms should refrain from coming to the church.**