

You will notice some changes in the way Mass is conducted. Please be aware that, as per the new law, face coverings **MUST** be worn in places of worship.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend Mass due to the risk that would pose to others. In this case please self-isolate at home immediately with other members of your household.

You will be greeted by a steward who will ask you to enter either by the usual side door or by the central door. We need to do this to ensure there is social distancing.

Once inside you will meet another steward who has to take your name, address and contact details. This is a legal requirement, as we have to keep a record of for 21 days of who has attended Mass.

To help speed this up you could email Fr Leo on DomLeo@downside.co.uk to let him know which Mass you will be attending.

You will need to include details as follows: Surname, Christian name Address with Post Code Contact telephone number and Email address.

As this may all take some time, you are asked to come to Mass early.

The doors will be open half an hour before the service starts. The steward will also ask you to use the hand-sanitiser available. Again, this is a necessary requirement for anyone coming to Mass and is about keeping others safe and secure as well as yourself, so please make use of it as we would not like anyone to be refused entry because they do not want to do what is asked.

A steward will direct you to your seat. You will be asked to sit at the end of a pew leaving several seats between you and another individual. Families and couples can, of course, sit together, occupying one row.

You will notice that there will be no newsletters handed out, no hymn books used, no singing and no offertory procession and the collection baskets will be positioned by the exit doors to allow you to make your contribution before you leave the church.

However, it would be helpful if contributions were made in future by standing order to avoid the need for handling cash. If you want details of how to do this please contact Fr Leo.

The stewards will also invite you to move for communion or a blessing. Everyone will be asked to do this so that we avoid people having to move past people in their row. The stewards will help you maintain the necessary distance so as to keep you and others safe. They will guide you up the centre aisle. There will be no communion from the chalice and communion is to be received in the hand. When you approach the priest you should have your arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between you and the priest. You should have your hands one on top of the other with palms upwards, as flatly as possible. You will need to return to your seat via the side aisles.

You need to know that we are instructed to make the service shorter than normal.

Obviously there will be no hymns. In addition, the homily will be brief and there will be no Prayers of the Faithful. The Sign of Peace should not involve any physical contact – a wave and smile will suffice!

It is important to stress that the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass is still suspended so there is no compulsion to come to Mass. If you are concerned about being in a closed space with other people, do not feel obliged to attend.

Please note that the toilets will be closed.

After the service the stewards will thoroughly clean the areas that have been used.