

Dear Parishioners and Friends

Having been in contact with our pastoral councils and some of the local priests we have decided that we shall stop having public Masses in both our churches from this Saturday 9 January until further notice. I am really sorry about this. Archbishop Malcolm has written to all the priests pointing out that whatever decisions are made about the public celebration of Masses we must take into account the age profile of our people and the risks to volunteers and stewards. I am particularly aware of the sacrifice we have all made over these past months in not being able to celebrate Mass as is 'right and fitting', but given the rise in the number of those contracting Covid 19 we think it is sensible to take these precautions. Mass will continue to be live-streamed as follows:

St Elizabeth's: Sundays – 0930; Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays – 0900.

St Anne's: Sundays – 1100; Wednesday, 1200.

It is sad that we are having to give so much attention to all this, but it is absolutely necessary for the well-being of everyone. Please keep all our parishioners and our country in your prayers. On which note, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year. As we hear so often in the Bible, 'Do not be afraid for the Lord is always with us'.

Godric OBB

National Lockdown. Reminder of the Regulations.

Although we are in a National Lockdown where we are to “stay at home”, it is a support to know that we can still leave home to attend a public Mass.

But please do not attend church if you or a member of your household or bubble have Covid symptoms, if you have been told that someone you have been in contact with has tested positive, if you are clinically vulnerable or if you have been advised to isolate.

Cardinal Nichols has reminded us, we are to:

“follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of our household or support bubble when attending a place of worship”.

Legally, all those attending church are required to abide by the following:

- face covering to be worn in church at all times and may not be taken off or moved away from the mouth or nose, except at the moment of receiving Communion.
- a face visor or shield may not be worn on their own but always with a mask or other face covering which fits securely round the side of the face
- name and contact details required for Track & Trace each time attending church. For St Elizabeth’s places need to be pre booked, for St Anne’s it is a great help if you bring these written out ready to drop into the box in the entrance
- Or use the app on your phone to register on arrival, through the NHS QR.
- sanitise hands on arrival, then move through to the main church as quickly as possible
- ensure a safe distance when entering and leaving church and when going to receive Communion
- on exiting church, not stopping to mingle with anyone outside of your household/support bubble
- arrive in good time so that the stewards can guide you to a safe place without too much disturbance of other people.
- always follow the guidance of the stewards

Thank you for helping, by keeping to these legal requirements and so enabling our churches to remain open.

St Anne’s and St Elizabeth’s PPCs.