

Ss Peter & Paul Church re-opening for Holy Mass

Frequently Asked Questions

When will Holy Mass take place at Ss Peter & Paul?

Starting from the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 4th July we will celebrate Holy Mass at the following times:

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 10am

Wednesdays: 9.30am

Fridays: 9.30am

How many people are you able to accommodate at each of the Masses?

Having assessed the capacity of our church based on the recent government instruction of 2 metres social distancing we will be able to have maximum of 40 individuals at any one Mass plus up to 4 stewards, 1 Sacristan and 1 Priest. This means that once the full capacity is reached nobody else will be admitted into the church. There will be No Altar Servers until after the Pandemic.

What if I'm unable to get to Mass on Sunday?

It is very important to remember that during this time of pandemic and until further notice Sunday Obligation remains suspended. Nobody is obliged to come to Mass on Sunday and those shielding are still advised to stay at home. For the time being we are also asking people to consider coming to Mass during the weekday if they are able to do so, in order to reduce the pressure on our Sunday Masses.

When should I arrive at the church for Mass?

Please arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of the Mass and form an orderly queue outside the church keeping 2m social distancing at all times. A steward will be there to guide you. When you enter the foyer of the church, all parishioners must use the hand sanitiser provided. You must leave the church by the new signed Exit.

Will I have to wear a face covering?

No. Wearing of face masks is entirely optional in our church as we will be observing the 2 metre distancing rule at all times.

I've always sat on the 4th pew. Can I continue to sit there?

No, upon entering the church the stewards will lead you into your seat. Please sit wherever you are asked to go and do not move places. It is very important we fill the church in a systematic way. This will allow for social distancing and also greatly reduce the pressure on our cleaners. The seating will be as follows:

Small Pews: 1 individual or 1 family unit only

Large pews: 2 individuals or 2 family units (seated at each end of the pew).

Will the Mass be celebrated as normal?

The experience of coming to Mass will be very different for some time. Apart from the different points already mentioned above, the Mass will be much shorter. There will be no congregational singing, homilies will be shorter and there will be no bidding prayers. While all these things are very important, the main focus at this moment is to make Mass as available as possible whilst still maintaining the church as a safe environment for people to come and worship. The Priest will advise you of any other changes at the beginning of Mass.

What about Holy Communion?

Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith it is important to make sure we mitigate any risks attached to coming to Holy Communion in this time of pandemic. Based on the instructions from our Bishop the following steps will be taken:

Communion will only be distributed by the Priest in front of the Sanctuary. The priest will sanitise his hands before Communion and should his hand come in contact with a communicant.

It is important that you join the queue for Holy Communion only after being prompted by a Steward.

Make sure you maintain social distancing from the person in front of you in the queue. There will be measuring tape on the floor to remind you.

When the time comes for you to come forward please take off your mask if you are wearing one, and receive Our Lord on the hand with your arms fully outstretched. Once you place the Host in your mouth, put your face covering back on and slowly go back to your seat always remembering social distancing. Do not say 'Amen' after receiving Holy Communion.

Communion will be offered only under one kind and in complete silence.

Please also remember that there is no pressure for you to receive Holy Communion. If you wish not to receive or you cannot receive for whatever reason, then remain seated and receive the God's blessing from the Priest at the end of Holy Mass.

Will I be able to use the toilet?

No, for the time being the toilets are closed.

Can I pray after Mass and light some candles?

Yes, but please wait in your pew until after those people who wish to leave the church have exited.

What if I am unwell?

If you are feeling unwell, have a cold or a new continuous cough or a fever, please stay away from the church and take the necessary steps for treatment and shielding yourself and others. Remember that the Sunday Mass Obligation has been lifted until further notice.

Will I be able to visit Ss Peter & Paul for private prayer outside of the Mass times?

Unfortunately, for the time being, we are unable to open the church both for Mass and private prayer. Each time the church is open, whether for private prayer or for Mass, it has to be thoroughly cleaned. At the moment we do not have enough cleaners and stewards to manage both and we are concentrating all our attention to making Mass as available as we can.

Do you need more volunteers?

Yes. If you would like to volunteer as a steward or a cleaner then please wait behind in your pew after Mass and see Alison Kirkham.

Can children come to Mass?

Yes of course! As long as they are with an adult from their family and with your help they will be able to observe 2 metre social distancing.

Can Confessions be now heard?

Yes. Please wait behind in your pew after Mass to speak with the Priest.

What about my plate collection offering?

A Collection plate will be placed at the new signed Exit of the church. Please do think about making your donation online via our parish website. You can donate safely and regularly and all the money will come directly to the parish.

Will there be a weekly Parish Newsletter?

Yes, but please keep an eye on our website <http://www.stspeterpaulbath.org.uk> and facebook page for any last minute news.