

## Celebration of Mass by in-church participation – guidelines and requirements

**REGISTRATION:** Following further consultation with H&S and studying the guidelines we've switched from online registration to QR codes instead. Please consider downloading the NHS Covid app and scanning the code on arrival or on your way out. Until further notice there is no need to have registered online in advance for in-church participation.

**SPACING:** Please leave a space between each family group/bubble.

**CAPACITY:** There is currently no cap on numbers. In the unlikely event that we reach safe capacity you might be asked to come to another mass. This will be reviewed each Sunday and it may be necessary to return to advance online booking.

**FACE COVERINGS:** Now mandated by the government in places of worship. The three exceptions offered by the government that I've accepted for St Mary's are: Ministers of the Word at the Ambo, obviously when you're receiving communion, and obviously those who are exempt for medical reasons. If exempt, please help to keep everyone else safe by refraining from singing due to the increased aerosol generated by singing.

**SEATING LAYOUT:** Familiar pre-pandemic layout but with a wider exclusion zone front centre for your safety.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD:** One per mass until further notice.

**VENTILATION:** Atrium door and the window by the statue of Our Lady will be open throughout.

**COLLECTIONS:** I'm currently promoting cashless donating, including a digital collection plate for the atrium. Please have your mobile phone and/or credit/debit card handy. We're not currently handing cash donations. Please continue to support the parish financially. We need this support.

**STANDING AND SITTING:** We have sometimes stood together for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite, eg during the Easter Season. It's a liturgical stance adopted by many Catholic communities around the world. We each share in the priesthood of Christ and are offering the sacrifice of the mass together. While the risk of viral transmission is still not eliminated, standing also removes the problem of contact with and aerosol transmission to the chair in front of you. So I'm once again inviting you to stand with me for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite. Please feel free to sit instead, and at any time during the Mass.

**SIGN OF PEACE:** Between priest and congregation only.

COMMUNION: Please maintain space between families, keeping the person in front of you safe. We're currently delaying singing until everybody has returned to their place. I will continue to be meticulous in keeping the hosts safe.

SHARED CHALICE: Not at this time.

APRÈS-MASS SOCIALISING: Please consider moving to a fresh space. This will help to minimise aerosol in church and time spend in church.

TOILETS: Doors will be wedged open as we did before the firstlockdown for ventilation.

HAND SANITISER: Available in the Atrium and in the Porch.

Keep well ! Keep safe ! Keep each other safe !

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Second Sunday of  
Christmas 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022