

ST GERARD MAJELLA CATHOLIC CHURCH KNOWLE

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS

Main Points

- **Safety of all of the utmost importance**
- **Maximum of 60 consisting of individuals & same household groups**
- **Church will open 30 minutes before Mass**
- **Church will close immediately after Mass**
- **Masks must be worn**
- **No toilet facilities**
- **Holy Communion to be given as you leave the church**
- **Holy Communion will be given in the hand only**
- **Everyone to remain in their seat - no moving around the church**
- **Children to remain seated with parents/guardian at all times**
- **No Children's Liturgy of the Word**

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ST GERARD'S

- 1 **THE RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS AT ST GERARD'S WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAYS FROM THE 16TH AUGUST AT 10.00AM & ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 19TH AUGUST AT 10.00AM. THIS IS OPEN TO REVIEW.**
- 2 The overall priority remains - **to keep everyone safe** and to ensure that we do not pass any viruses on to others. **Those who have been shielding and those with underlying health conditions are still encouraged not to come to Church.** The Sunday Obligation to attend Mass remains suspended and **live streaming at St Gerard's continues as normal.** The church will be cleaned with a fogging machine after every Mass.
- 3 **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TOILETS REMAIN CLOSED.**
- 4 **Entry to St Gerard's will be through the main doors.** The maximum number of people permitted to come into the Church 60 made up of individuals or same household groups; this will be clearly signposted at the door.
- 5 **EVERYONE COMING TO MASS MUST WEAR A FACE MASK/FACE COVERING AND SANITISE THEIR HANDS ON ARRIVAL,** stewards will assist with this. There are gel dispensers in the porch and at the back of the church.
- 6 You will be unable to choose where you sit, stewards will guide you to a seat in the pews. You will be unable to move around the church.

- 7 Families, of course, may be together in the pews. **Others must keep the social distancing of 2 metres.** If the Church reaches its capacity for social distancing (as signposted), the volunteer stewards will not permit any further entry.
- 8 If you are coming to Mass with young children please note that children will be unable to move around the church, they will have to remain in the allotted seat. Toilets are closed and there is no children's liturgy of the word or soft toy area.
- 9 Votive candles will be unavailable. No lighting of candles.
- 10 There will be no singing.
- 11 The Mass will proceed as usual. The Readers will proclaim the Readings as **usual but from a temporary lectern. The readings will be printed on single use paper and must be taken away by the reader.** There will be no Bidding Prayers.
- 12 Fr. George will receive Holy Communion as usual and then recite the prayer for a spiritual communion, and then say the Final Prayer and give the Blessing. Fr George will not be distributing Holy Communion.
- 13 **Holy Communion will be distributed at the very end of Mass by an extra ordinary minister of the Eucharist as people leave -** The minister will wear a mask and will sanitise their hands before and after they receive Holy Communion. Communicants are required to sanitise their hands just prior to receiving Holy Communion. This will be provided by the stewards as communicants are guided to the minister. **You are required to go straight out of the Church area as soon as you have received Holy Communion. We are not allowed to stand around and greet one another in the normal manner or to return to your bench.**
- 14 Holy Communion is **allowed to be distributed only in the Hand and cannot be received on the tongue. This rule has no exceptions.**
- 15 **The minister will stand behind a table at the back of the church. Each communicant must hold their arms and hands at full stretch. The minister cannot say 'The Body of Christ' and the communicant cannot say 'Amen' OUT-LOUD,** but of course, we do so in our hearts.
- 16 **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL TOILETS REMAIN CLOSED.**

We might find such guidelines intrusive, but they have to be obeyed and are for the safety of all. One of the difficulties we have at St Gerard's is that there are no windows in the church which can be opened, making ventilation of the church inefficient and slow, **consequently the wearing of Face Masks is essential and obligatory.** The windows were sealed in the 1970s. We thank the Lord that we have reached this stage, but of course, it is always reversible depending on the situation and we will proceed with caution and care.