

Covid-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance

1. Please continue to use hand sanitisers at entrances, exits and before Holy Communion.
2. Face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn by those in church although it is not a legal requirement any longer.
3. General cleaning of frequent touchpoints is to continue on a daily basis. All pews will be sanitised only before and after weekend Masses.
4. Social Distancing and Capacity of Churches
Although, from 19th July, there will be no legislation on social distancing in England, we will keep it in place due to the growing number of cases. Extra pews will be added in the side aisles and transept to increase the capacity of our Church.
5. Congregational Singing
Indoor congregational singing will be permitted from 19th July but for practical reasons it will be resumed in our Church in the Autumn.
6. Opening of Churches
Our Church porch will be left open and unsupervised for individual prayer after Mass/Rosary.
7. Test, Track and Trace
QR codes associated with the NHS app will still be available but there is no need to complete track & trace slips.
8. One-way systems and movement of people
It is no longer necessary to have one-way systems or other restrictions on movement in churches from this time onward. People should exercise good responsible behaviour especially when moving to receive Holy Communion during Mass and should avoid getting too close to each other. All doors can be used to enter and leave the Church. Please avoid congregating in aisles and around entrances/exits and the piety stall.
9. Stewards
The deployment of stewards will no longer be necessary to show people to designated seats etc. However, a welcoming presence at the church door is a valuable sign of hospitality, and stewards can assist in the cleaning of frequently used touch points within the church building.
10. Holy Water stoups will remain empty.
11. Collections: there will be three stewards (one by each exit) with two money pouches for 1st (blue) and 2nd collection (red).
12. The Physical Sign of Peace remains suspended.
13. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the ministers will continue to sanitise their hands beforehand and wear a face covering whilst distributing. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand but those who wish to receive on the tongue may do so either the end of Communion line or at the altar rails.
14. The Sunday Duty is still suspended until further notice.
15. Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Please use hand sanitiser before and after confession. A physical barrier covers the grille between the confessor and the penitent. Confessional boxes will be cleaned after the period of confessions has ended, and the doors left open to facilitate good ventilation.
16. Celebration of Holy Baptism
Baptisms now have no restrictions on numbers attending. However, it is recommended that single families should have children baptised at any one celebration.
17. Celebration of Funerals
There is no restriction on the number of people that can attend funerals.
18. Celebration of Marriage
There is no restriction on the number of people that can attend marriages in the Church.
19. Social & Pastoral Activities
Parish social & pastoral activities can be resumed from 19th July. First Friday coffee mornings, Children's Liturgy, First Holy Communion, Confirmation & RCIA Classes will start in the Autumn.