

## **Update from September 2022**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales asked that people now return to the normal practice of Sunday Mass. It recognises that to be present at Mass and to receive the Eucharist is completely different from joining on the livestream if you are able to be present in person. The full statement on returning to Mass at Pentecost is on the Cathedral website.

### Face Coverings & Social Distancing

As at all times since the beginning of the pandemic and listening to the view of our parishioners, we have reviewed the practice of face coverings. As of **September 2022**, we invite you to follow the recommendation that a face covering in crowded spaces is still something that can help in preventing the spread of infection. Also, while people often express a view on what wearing a face covering means for them, it is reasonable in the setting of a church to say that you are also asked to consider the needs of your neighbour.

Many people who come to church are vulnerable and many may live with illnesses that are not visible. Although everybody has a responsibility for their own health and protecting it, and while Covid is something that we need to learn to live with, let us continue to be vigilant and not put others at risk.

### The Distribution of Holy Communion

**Please approach the altar via the central aisle from wherever you are seated and return to your place via the side aisles.** We ask that you continue to respect the distancing that others may wish. As always, if you require Holy Communion brought to your place, please mention this to the Stewards when you arrive for Mass.

Due to the ongoing risk of infection, the norm for receiving Communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the altar when the rest of the congregation has received, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue. There is no offence intended by this distinction and we ask that you respect also the health of the minister and of the rest of the congregation if you wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue

### Use of toilets

The Cathedral toilets to the right of the Sanctuary are now available again and will be open at Mass times.

Holy Water will be available in the side vestibule stoups or if you require some for home, please speak to a Steward.

During our opening hours the Stewards will assist with the signing of Mass cards.

**Thank you for your continued support and understanding.**