

Welcome back to Mass

From Bishop Paul to the priests, 3 March 2021. “Please be careful not to give any impression that things are returning to normal at the present time – they are not. Even though places of worship have had, so far, a great deal of success in being Covid-secure establishments, we are still asked to hold essential church services only and our liturgies must be kept brief.”

Inside church, please ...

- Avoid walking around or going to speak to people not in your household or social bubble, even with social distance, and no matter how important.
- Maintain social distance going to Holy Communion and when leaving.
- If you remain in church after Mass, take special care that you do not socialise with – even hang around for a quick catch up with – people from different households.

Outside church, please ...

- Keep the exit clear so that others can leave safely and without anxiety.
- In the church grounds, take special care that you do not socialise with – even hang around to have a quick catch up with – people from different households, even with social distance and no matter how tempting.

Our **toilets** are currently not available for use nor, at Garstang, are the individual **cushioned chairs**.

You are welcome to take an **Order of Mass booklet**, provided you take it home with you, write your name on the front cover, and retain it for your personal use at church.

If you wish to light a **candle**, before doing so wait a few minutes after you have used the alcohol hand sanitiser. Please keep an appropriate distance from anyone in front of you. You will need to light your candle from one already lit: tapers and lighters are not in use.

Collection. Please make your donations to church by standing order. If not, please write a cheque. There is a basket at the back of church. *Please avoid donating coins.*

Celebrating Mass

We want to celebrate Mass with dignity, without rushing but also without being inside the building together longer than necessary.

You might like to recite the *I confess* and the *I believe* as part of your personal preparation for Mass.

At the **Sign of Peace**, turn and say “Peace be with you” or bow, with no contact.

Holy Communion. After “Behold the Lamb of God / Lord, I am not worthy ...” Fr Geoffrey will say to all the congregation, “The Body of Christ.” All reply, “Amen.” Communion (or a blessing) will be ministered and received in silence.

To receive Holy Communion, approach the altar up the main aisle.

Stewards might well direct you, in order to help us maintain appropriate distancing.

Fr Geoffrey will stand on the altar step behind the altar rails.

Extend your hands as far as you are able, with palms flat, and receive Communion in your hand in silence.

Walk down the side aisle. You may either leave church directly, or remain until the end of Mass and for silent prayer. If you do stay, please maintain safe-distancing, and return to the place you were using.

If you are unable to walk to Communion, please speak to a steward on your arrival.