

## Guidance on the Wearing of Face Coverings

### Face Coverings

Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. Priests in the sanctuary providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion (please see below). Other ministers in the sanctuary should wear face coverings and remain socially distant from the celebrant.

### During the Mass

Servers must wear face coverings whilst in the Sanctuary. Deacons should wear face coverings apart from the proclamation of the Gospel when he should remove the face covering at the lectern and replace it before moving away from it (providing the lectern is sufficiently distant from the congregation).

Readers may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it providing the lectern is sufficiently distant from the congregation.

### The Communion Rite

The priest, and those who are distributing Holy Communion should wear face coverings when doing so.

#### Option 1

Once the priest has received Holy Communion, he should put on his face covering and cleanse his hands with alcohol sanitiser before opening the pre-prepared ciborium for the Communion of the people. If there is a deacon assisting, or any other Minister of Holy Communion, they should similarly cleanse their hands and then receive communion from the priest from the people's ciborium, and under one kind only. They should then put on their face coverings and cleanse their hands again before receiving their ciborium from which they remove the covering or pall if it is still in place.

Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward for Holy Communion by the stewards, always aware of the regulations on social distancing. When they approach the priest, deacon or minister of Holy Communion they should do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between the priest and the communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. The communicant should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their pews in an orderly manner. Having received Holy Communion, communicants should move back to their pews or chairs.

Once Communion is complete, the priest returns to the altar and places the unused Hosts, without touching them, into the Tabernacle he then can remove his face covering before he cleanses the sacred vessels himself in the usual way.

### After the Celebration of Mass

If the clergy wish to greet the people, they should remove their vestments put on a face covering (if in church) and not engage in any physical contact with parishioners.