

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WHEATLEY

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF VIGIL MASS: SATURDAY, 6pm.

1. 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 remains suspended and live-streaming at Corpus Christi continues as normal.
2. Entry to Our Lady of Lourdes will be via the disabled ramp running along the front of the porch and the side of the church. Social distancing should be observed; you will be shown to your seat by a steward. Family groups should share a bench, otherwise two people per bench, one at either end. Benches have been rearranged to ensure social distancing.
3. Track and Trace: Please bring a piece of paper with your name and phone number and place in the box at the entrance; these will be retained for 21 days and then destroyed. If you forget, the steward at the entrance will note your details.
4. The maximum number of people permitted to come into the Church is 30; this will be clearly signposted at the door. If the Church reaches its capacity for social distancing the volunteer stewards will not permit any further entry but there will be chairs outside if you wish to hear Mass through the open windows.
4. EVERYONE coming to Mass must wear a face covering and sanitise their hands on arrival. There is now an automatic gel dispenser in the Porch.
5. There will be no singing. The Mass will proceed as usual. The Reader will proclaim the Readings as usual. There will be no Bidding Prayers.
6. Fr. Mervyn will receive Holy Communion as usual and then recite the Final Prayer and give the Blessing.
7. Holy Communion will be distributed at the very end of Mass by Fr. Mervyn as people leave the Church. The stewards will guide you one bench at a time to receive communion. Holy Communion is allowed to be distributed only in the Hand and cannot be received on the tongue. This rule has no exceptions.
8. Fr Mervyn will bring Holy Communion to anyone attending Mass outside.
9. You are advised to go straight out of the Church area as soon as you have received Holy Communion. Social distancing must be retained in the car park.
10. Fr Mervyn will stand behind a table at the exit. Each communicant must hold their arms and hands "at full stretch". The priest cannot say "The Body of Christ" and the communicant cannot say "Amen" OUT-LOUD but, of course, we do so in our hearts.

We might find such guidelines intrusive, but they have to be obeyed. We thank the Lord that we have reached this stage but, of course, it is always reversible depending on the situation.