



# Parish of Ramsgate and Minster

## Guidance for the Celebration of Mass

The Government has announced that from 4th July 2020, communal acts of worship will be allowed in our Catholic Churches. The maximum safe operating capacity of the church is based on social distancing guideline. It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday or Sunday evening. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people. Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

Social Distancing - **IMPORTANT** - The Government has said it is possible to go to “1m plus;” this means you can space people more closely (with a minimum of 1m) providing a mitigation of risk is also applied. **In the case of our churches, this would mean the compulsory wearing of a face covering for members of the congregation. People to provide their own face mask – these will not be provided at church.**

**Please be aware there is a ‘one way’ system in operation, entry through the main doors and exit via the side door (St. Ethelbert’s via the Lady Chapel & St. Augustine’s via the door to the cemetery).**

**There are NO toilet facilities available at the Churches.**

### **Celebration of Mass within Church Buildings**

Any worship aids – Mass cards and hymn books are removed, only personal items to be used that have been brought with the person and taken with the user when the Mass ends.

Readers should wear single -use gloves and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning.

The Holy Water stoups should be dry.

Until further instruction is given on singing, there should be no congregational singing at Mass.

The homily should be brief, to minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building. The Prayers of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers) should be omitted.

There should be no offertory procession of the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

There should be no sharing of the collection plate or bag. People should be encouraged to make their donation to the church online or via standing order. Plates or other collecting boxes for cash offerings should be placed at the entrances and exits of churches, and this should be overseen by stewards. At St Augustine’s the collection box will be by the statue of St. Augustine.

The Communion Rite - Members of the congregation should not exchange the sign of peace. After the prayer and its response “Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy,” the priest should hold up the Host to the Congregation and say audibly “The Body of Christ” to which the people should respond “Amen.” In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, “The Blood of Christ” and again the people respond “Amen.” The priest should receive Holy Communion under both kinds using his own Host and Chalice.

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion.**

Communion must be given silently, avoiding any physical contact. If the priest accidentally touches you while giving Holy Communion, he will immediately gel his hand. People should wait in their pews for the priest to come to them or they will be guided by a steward when to approach the altar and must observe social distancing.

The procession from the sanctuary at the end of the Mass should ensure good social distancing. The sanctuary party should return to the sacristy after Mass. If the clergy wish to greet the people, they should remove their vestments first and not engage in any physical contact with parishioners, who should be encouraged to return home and not remain.

People should then exit via side door observing social distancing and leave the area. The church should be closed after the Mass has finished in order to clean the space according to the Bishops' Conference guidelines on individual prayer.

### **Confession:**

**St. Ethelbert's**            **Saturday at 5.00pm and Sunday at 9.30am to be held outside on the Parish Field with access via the Sanctuary and Sacristy. If bad weather, it will be held inside.**

**St. Augustine's**        **To be advised by Fr. Simon.**

### **Mass Times:            PLEASE NOTE ADDITIONAL MASSES**

**St. Ethelbert's**        Saturday evening        5.30pm  
Sunday morning        10.00am  
Sunday noon            12.00 (Polish Mass)  
Sunday evening        6.00pm

**Daily**                    **Adoration at 8.30am, Rosary 9.10am followed by Mass at 9.30am except Friday Mass is at 8.00am followed by Adoration.**

**St. Augustine's**        Sunday morning        8.30am  
Sunday noon            12.00 (Latin TLM)  
Sunday evening        5.00pm

**Daily**                    **Mass at 12.00noon.**

**We urgently need to have the names of anyone who is willing to volunteer to be a steward.** Please contact the Parish Office (01843 592071) with your contact details, what Mass you will be attending and to advise if you wish to have your name placed on the Rota.

Stewards also required for daily Masses at St. Ethelbert's and St. Augustine's.

Readers – could you please advise the Parish Office if you are able to undertake reading at any of the Masses and your name will be placed on the Rota.