



## **Guidelines for Congregation Attending St Catherine's Dominican Church Newry, During Covid19 for the Return to the Public Celebration of Mass & the Sacraments.**

**These guidelines have been developed in response to the Framework Document of the Bishops of Ireland and in accordance with guidelines for social distancing from the Northern Ireland Executive. June 2020**

### **Introduction:**

We in St Catherine's, are aware people are very anxious to return to Mass and receive the Sacraments; however the new process to attend Mass is not 'normal' but essential.

We ask that the public have patience with us as we plan to do this safely.

It is important to remember that we are in unprecedented and challenging times and it is vital that we all play our part to ensure the safety of you, the congregation, the Priests and the volunteers and to minimise risk.

It is acknowledged that the measures that have been put in place are dependent on the availability of volunteers to ensure that the guidance issued by the Bishops of Ireland can be delivered safely. These will be put in place on a phased basis so that each stage is robustly monitored to ensure everyone's safety.

The following guidelines have been put in place to ensure everyone's safety and we ask that you strictly adhere to these.

Thank you in helping us to help you.

### **Safety:**

*Maintaining social distance remains the **safest** way to prevent spread of COVID19 and risk to self and others. It is important that people who are shielding, vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with symptoms that might suggest Covid19 infection, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, as now; via webcam, social media, television or radio. The same applies to those who have been in recent contact with someone who has the virus in accordance with public health advice.*



### Approaching the Church

1. Adhere to social distancing outside and inside the church – note ground/floor markings.
2. Check in with the Steward who will mark your name against the confirmed booking list at front door of the church and who will advise you of your seat allocation number.

### Entering the Church

3. Bless with Holy Water from foot operated non-touch dispenser then
4. Sanitise hands from foot operated non-touch dispenser (important to do this after touching your forehead when blessing yourself).
5. Another Steward will guide you to your seat.

### Holy Communion

6. Follow one way system at all times via centre aisle to your seat and to attend Holy Communion.
7. If you do not intend to receive Holy Communion please sit to the inside of the seat to maintain social distancing and not infringe on others social space.
8. Please adhere to 2 meter floor markings when going up for Holy Communion: a steward will guide you.
9. Prior to receiving Holy Communion please re-sanitise your hands: dispensers located at the top of centre aisle. **Holy Communion can only be received in the hand at this time.**
10. Return to your seat via side aisles again be mindful of social distancing.
11. **If wearing a face mask:** Remove face mask prior to receiving Holy Communion and sanitise your hands as instructed in point 8 above
12. **If wearing gloves:** Remove gloves prior to receiving Holy Communion and sanitise your hands as instructed in point 8 above
13. **DO NOT TOUCH** Statues or Divine Mercy Picture  
**Candelabra:** Please follow non-touch guidance and disposal of taper.

### Exit:

14. **Do not Linger:** as soon as Mass is over please leave the Church when guided by the steward following the one way system up the centre aisle and exiting via the side door beside the Sacristy in an organised manner adhering to social distancing guidance.
15. Bless with Holy Water then
16. Sanitise hands from foot operated non-touch dispenser (important to do this after touching your forehead when blessing yourself).



### Holy Communion for those unable to attend Mass:

For those who are unable to attend Mass, Holy Communion will be available on Sunday afternoons in the Church between 4-6pm. If you or your relative is unable to come into the church, the Priest or Eucharistic Minister will be able to take Holy Communion out to the car at the front steps to the church.

### Confessions:

There are plans to resume the Sacrament of Penance in the church in the near future: in the interim anyone wishing to receive confession can contact the Priory on 028 3026 2178 to arrange with a Priest.

**Thank you for your cooperation to make attending Mass a safer experience for everyone.**

**Prior, Brothers and the Coordinating Team. June 2020**