



St. Andrew's Parish and Covid-19 Update

Public Masses have resumed!

We're delighted that the celebration of public Mass has resumed in our church.

**From Monday to Friday, Mass will be celebrated at
10 am and 12:45 pm,**

on

**Saturday at 10 am and 6:30 pm (Vigil Mass),
and on**

Sunday at 10 am and 11:30 am.

Currently, attendance is limited to 50 but this is expected to rise in the near future.

While we're delighted to be able to welcome people back – and we know that many have been distressed not to be able to attend and to receive Holy Communion – it's essential that we observe carefully all the guidelines to keep us safe. We know only too well the trail of sickness and death which this deadly disease has left it is wake. We must do all we can to protect each other from the risk of infection, so:

- Don't come to church if you have any symptoms associated with the disease: fever, cough, shortness of breath.
- Sanitize your hands on entry to the church.
- Sit only where indicated – all marked seats are 6 feet from the nearest seat.
- Keep a safe distance when coming forward for Communion and when leaving the church.

There is no obligation to attend Mass during this health crisis. This is especially the case for those who are vulnerable as a result of age or medical condition. Do not feel under any pressure to come to Mass.

If you feel uncomfortable coming to church on Sunday, you might like to come on a weekday when numbers are much smaller. You may feel safer to continue to watch broadcast or streamed Mass.



**St. Andrews Parish
Church**
Westland Row
Covid-19 Special Edition

Private Prayer

We were delighted to be able to keep the church open every day during the lockdown to facilitate private prayer. Many came for moments of prayer and reflection, or to light a candle.

You are very welcome to call for such moments of peace and reflection. For the moment, we are open every day from 8 am until 1:30 pm.

July 2020



Protecting your Health During Mass

In order to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus, a number of precautions are being taken in line with public health advice:

Communion is being distributed in the hand; Priests and Ministers of the Eucharist will sanitise their hands before distribution and will wear a face mask; There will be no entrance processions; Mass leaflets will not be distributed; The sign of peace will consist of a smile or a bow or a wave, not a handshake; The congregation will not sing during Mass.

Collection baskets will not be circulated; instead, you will be asked to leave donations for the first and second collections in marked boxes at the door.

'Chip' or envelope Collections

The weekly household offering is the main source of income that keeps our church going. We are very grateful to those who continued to drop in their envelopes during the lockdown. Obviously, there has been a serious reduction in income. We are getting by, conscious that many families have also suffered a drop in income.

Contributing what you can enables us to keep the doors open and the lights on. We will shortly have a facility on the parish website where you can make on line donations to the parish, as well as the weekly collections for the support of clergy and for Share. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Every Home is a Church too!

Not everyone can come to church. The church is wherever people turn to God and He is present with them. We can link the two types of church:
-we are very happy to bring Holy Communion to those who can't come to Mass; -we are very happy to come to bless your home and loved ones. If you would like to arrange this, call the Parish Office on 01 6761270.

Streaming Live Mass

We were pleased to be able to stream the private Masses which were celebrated every day during the closure. Unfortunately, this arrangement cannot be continued for Mass at the main altar. However, arrangements are being made to install a WebCam and the streaming of Mass will resume as soon as possible.

Lockdown

What are you bringing out of lockdown?

We've all been through a very challenging experience. Normal life and plans were disrupted. The bustle and distractions of the day were stilled.

How were you affected? What sort of person are you now? What are you bringing out of lockdown?

Maybe gratitude for coming through? Appreciation for neighbours and services that supported you? Greater awareness of nature in birdsong and clear skies? Admiration for health staff and frontline workers who kept going?

For all that is good, we thank God. For all our futures, we trust in God. For all our fears, we commend to God. For all that is, Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.