

# **CORONAVIRUS** – Parish safety information from the Westminster Office (RCDO)

**WITH ONGOING CONCERNS OVER CORONAVIRUS:-**

**MOST IMPORTANTLY WASH and/or SANITISE HANDS REGULARLY, COMING IN AND OUT OF THE PARISH/CHURCH and especially after using the TOILETS.**

**Please make use of the hand sanitisers provided.**

**We are recommending that Communion be received on the hand.**

**We also ask that at *the sign of peace*, members of the Assembly, give a simple reverential bow to the people around them.**

**All holy water stoups will be emptied of water**

**Door handles:** Except for fire doors, where practical, church doors will be left open during Mass times so that parishioners don't have to touch door handles.

**Offertory procession with the gifts.** Those taking the gifts up should have washed their hands thoroughly just before taking up the gifts and the gifts themselves should be clean. Otherwise, the gifts should be on the credence table or altar. **The offertory collection** should NOT be taken up to the sanctuary with the gifts.

**Offertory collection** The plate/bag should not be handed round from one parishioner to another, but the person collecting should hold on to it at all times. Then, after the collection, they should practice good hygiene either by washing their hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser.

**OR - Another alternative** is to have collectors stand with baskets/bags at the back of church or in the porch to receive the offertory money as parishioners are leaving Mass.

**Counting the collection.** Those counting the collection should wear rubber gloves and avoid touching their faces while counting. Once the count has been completed, they should wash their hands thoroughly or use hand sanitiser.

**The Bulletin.** Printed copies of the newsletter are placed in slots where parishioners can collect them. Do not replace any you might not want. Please take them away.

**Hymn books will be withdrawn**

**Coffee and tea after Mass.** If serving coffee and tea after Mass, ensure that all who are preparing or serving food or beverages have washed their hands and all utensils thoroughly. Avoid having multiple people touching cups, plates, biscuit tins, etc. Use paper cups and disposable spoons, and food items that are individually wrapped instead. Where possible, ask parishioners to be seated at tables and pour coffee/tea into their cups.

**Parish gatherings** Simple parish gatherings such as catechesis can go ahead, but no food or drink will be served. All involved should be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and use hand sanitiser. Please be especially careful with children as they can often spread infections. It is up to the Parish Priest to decide whether to go ahead with planned parish celebrations.

**The PARISH LUNCH IN AID OF THE ACN IS CANCELLED until further notice.**

**Future GATHERINGS IN THE PARISH are constantly under review. The bulletin will inform of any cancellations. Please also check the noticeboards.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT** that those with cold or flu symptoms should refrain from attending gatherings. Older parishioners or those with certain medical conditions should **not attend**.

## **Anointing and visiting the Sick in care homes or hospitals**

**First, remember** that those in care homes are most likely to have low immunity and unable to fight the coronavirus:

**When anointing or visiting the sick in a care home:-**

Wash hands with soap and water. Also sanitise if available.

When a priest is anointing - wear surgical/latex gloves and plastic apron – all care homes will have these.

Lay hands on head of patient – keeping a thumb raised up that does not touch the patient's head.

Use this thumb – dip in oil stock and anoint head and hands – do not put thumb back in oil stock – you do not want to contaminate the oil stock.

After anointing – remove gloves and apron and wash hands. Dispose of in bins that indicate its contents will be burned/incinerated.

Repeat this process for each patient.

**Eucharistic ministers:** Wash hands before giving the sacraments. No pastoral visits to people who are self-isolating until isolation ends. Offer phone support

**Reconciliation Service:** As children are more likely to spread infections, anyone who has symptoms of cold or flu should not attend the reconciliation service. The space will be as well ventilated as possible. All who are in attendance, children as well as adults, should wash or disinfect their hands with hand sanitiser. Before the service begins, tissues will be distributed to the children which they can use to catch any sneezes or coughs.

*Any updates will be posted on the website and noticeboards. Thank you, parishioners, for reading and taking note of this important information*

**CATCH IT** (sneeze into a tissue or your elbow), **BIN IT:** (throw tissue into bin); **KILL IT-WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY** (with soap and water and sanitise if possible): **DO NOT TOUCH YOUR FACE UNTIL** you have washed your hands.  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#number-of-cases>