

Volunteer Welcomers: Guidelines, St Joseph's, Dorking.

Thank you for volunteering to welcome. These are some notes to help you fulfil your role safely. Updates have been taken from the Bishop's conference, updates in italics, what we are doing at St Joseph's in highlight.

Test, Track and Trace

As long as the NHS Test, Track and Trace system is in operation, churches should continue to make available the means for people to sign in for acts of worship using the NHS app and the associated QR codes (or other means of attendee identification).

There will be a list of regular attendees for each Mass, just tick them off. If someone isn't on the list encourage them to use the NHSApp or add them to the list. This isn't a list of those booked in as there is no longer a booking system but something to help the welcomers and reduce queuing, it does not matter if they are not on the list, they are all welcome. They will be come in via both ends of the church, a welcomer will be needed at each end.

3. One-way systems and movement of people

It is no longer necessary to have one-way systems or other restrictions on movement in churches from this time onward. People should exercise good responsible behaviour especially when moving to receive Holy Communion during Mass and should avoid getting too close to each other. However we will continue to shepherd people to communion for the summer and then review the situation in September. Please start to move people promptly so that they are waiting for Fr to come down and start distribution. Those receiving Communion on the tongue will continue to join the end of the Communion Procession.

4. Welcoming

The deployment of welcomers will no longer be necessary to show people to designated seats etc however, a welcoming presence at the church door is a valuable sign of hospitality, and welcomers can assist in the cleaning of frequently used touch points within the church building. The church will still need to be cleaned after each Mass as the church will remain open throughout Sunday and there is no longer a 5pm Mass. People will still be asked to sanitise their hands on entrance.

5. Care has to be taken to ensure that churches continue to be places where people feel safe to gather to worship. Each local community should examine the local conditions regarding the virus, and adopt an attitude of care for the people who desire to attend Mass. Suggestions to help this include (but are not limited to):

a. *In large churches, designating an area of the church where there will be set places, socially distant from each other, and where those seated there will be required to wear a face covering.* The main centre aisle will no longer have any restrictions on where people sit, the 2 side aisles will remain socially distanced for the time being. People can sit where they wish, they do not need to be shown to their seats. Welcomers will need to explain this to them.

6. We are asking our congregation to wear face coverings at busy Masses ie 6pm and 10am.

COVID is still out there!!!

If you have COVID-19 symptoms (a new, persistent cough, a high temperature, or a loss of taste/smell), or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days in the you should not come to church. If you were due to come to church for welcoming please let Fr. Simon and/or Penny know (07824566574) and we will arrange cover. The same applies if you have been asked to self-isolate for any reason.