

## Covid 19 Safety Measures

### Changes at St Francis Xavier's Church as England moves to Step 4 from 19.07.21.

As you will be aware the Government has announced that from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 there will be changes to the safety measures currently applicable to England.

Mindful that the pandemic is by no means over and that we must proceed with caution the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has issued further guidance for us to follow at Holy Mass.

The Parish Covid safety group met and taking into account the recommendations from the Bishops have put forward the following.

1. Public weekday Masses will resume from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. (Please see Newsletter for times). There will be no stewards and parishioners are still asked to maintain the current practice of **face covering, using hand sanitiser and keeping distance** from other parishioners.
2. Confessions will remain as now, using the Sacristy (not the confessional). There will be no stewards but again **face coverings, sanitiser and space** remain important for everyone's safety.

**Sunday Mass** will follow the familiar routine as now. However there will be a significant change in how we receive Holy Communion.

The following will be effective from Saturday/Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

1. Face masks should be worn at all times indoors.
2. We ask everyone to continue to use hand sanitiser on entry and exit from the Church.
3. The sign-in sheets and QR code will remain available on entry.
4. **There will be no steward** guiding worshippers to their place but we will continue to follow the practice of filling from the front and sitting with space between families/households. Welcomers will offer guidance if required.

### Seating

1. Worshippers will notice however that the **side pews remain every other bench** whilst **the central pews will be set out, so that if necessary, each bench can be used.** (e.g. at 10.00 am Mass).

### Holy Communion.

1. At Communion, worshippers are asked to make their way to the altar rails (as in pre-Covid times) to receive the Blessed Sacrament. We ask the people in the central pews to go first, from the front. The people in the side pews will proceed to the back of the church then down the central aisle. Everyone is asked to return via the side aisles. This will maintain the one way system. Please be patient and considerate of those around you and keep a safe space between you and other worshippers at all times. **Only remove your mask just prior to receiving the Blessed Sacrament and replace your mask before walking back to your seat.**

### At the end of Mass

1. As now please remain in your seat as those from the back exit first so that a safe distance is maintained at all times. We feel no stewards are necessary at this point as we are all well used to this system now.
2. Remember please do not linger in large groups on the steps or near the exits.

Finally the **cleaning** regime involving wiping down frequently touched surfaces **will remain in place** as now, so **please volunteer** to give those who have been cleaning throughout the pandemic a break if they so wish.