

Updated and Additional Guidance on the Celebration of the Sacraments

Please find attached updated and additional guidance on the celebration of the Sacraments. Please also note that the guidance is mandatory in the Archdiocese of Southwark and should be followed along with all necessary hygiene and social distancing measures. This applies equally to Assisting Priests, Deacons, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and any others in the sanctuary. I would be grateful if you could ensure that the guidance is properly implemented, especially with respect to the reception of Holy Communion by those in the sanctuary, some of whom will then distribute Holy Communion to others.

- Updated [Guidance for the celebration of Mass](#) – this has been slightly changed and the relevant changes are shown in red in the text (Revision 7) and reproduced here:
 - Readers should **sanitise their hands before and after reading, or** be supplied with single-use gloves, and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning.
 - At this point, the other Ministers of Holy Communion who will assist the priest come forward, cleanse their hands and receive Holy Communion under one kind. **They should then cleanse their hands again before receiving their ciborium from which they remove the covering or pall if it is still in place.**
 - If there is space for the celebration of Mass outdoors around the Church, which allows for the social distancing guidelines of Government to be fulfilled, and that all of the above liturgical advice can be done safely, then there is no reason why Mass cannot be celebrated outside of a church **within the boundary of the parish property. If a Catholic parish school or its grounds is to be used for Mass, a separate risk assessment has to be done, the appropriate school authority (Governing Body or Trust) has to give its permission, and both the parish and school insurers should be informed before the event takes place**

- [Guidance for Concelebration with a Congregation](#) – this has two parts, for concelebrants who normally live together (for example, a religious community or a number of priests in a presbytery) and concelebration which draws concelebrants from separate households.
 - [Guidance for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Infant Baptism](#)
 - [Guidance for the Celebration of Marriages](#)
 - [Guidance for Pastoral care of the Housebound](#) (Sacrament of the Sick and Home Communion Visits). Please note that visits to multiple homes is discouraged by Government guidance as this risks multiple households
 - [Update on Singing and Music](#)
 - **Test and Trace** – The Catholic Church, along with other organisations, has been asked to co-operate with ‘Test and Trace’ as outlined in my [email on 1 July \(copy attached\)](#). This is not compulsory, but part of Government guidance in service of the common good, and should be implemented wherever possible in the simple ways outlined. Any person refusing to co-operate in giving their contact details should be recorded as *‘a person who did not wish to give their details,’* but this is not an obstacle to attending Mass. However, **everyone** is obliged to follow the hygiene and social distancing requirements. ([Copy of file mentioned in email](#))
 - Further guidance will soon be available concerning the Sacrament of Confirmation which will mean that, with the guidance about Baptism already provided, Catechumens and Candidates will soon be able to initiated into the Church. This is something that you may wish to begin to think about. I will send the information as soon as it is available.
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