

Re-opening of Erdington Abbey for Mass

Instructions for parishioners

Dear all,

We are pleased to announce that Erdington Abbey will re-open its doors for Mass from this Saturday 4th July 2020. During the weeks ahead, Mass will take place at the following times:

Saturdays- 9.30am and 6.00pm

Sundays- 8.00am, 9.15am, 10.30am, 12.00pm, 6.00pm

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays- 10.00am and 7.30pm

Tuesdays and Fridays- 10.00am

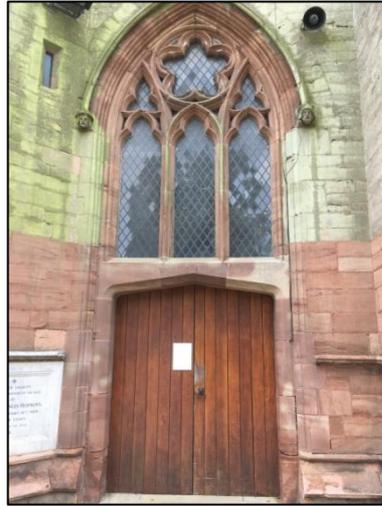
As you will no doubt expect, we have gone to great lengths to help to ensure the safety of yourselves and other parishioners, and as a result, created a number of measures listed below that we require all parishioners to follow when coming to church to celebrate Mass.

- There is a one-way system in place. Please only enter through the main entrance doors, and leave through the Sacristy.
- Please do not touch any door handles whilst moving through the building, all doors will be propped open.
- Please do not touch any statues in and around the church.
- When you arrive outside church, please queue using the markers on the floor, this queuing system will maintain social distance. You will be welcome to join one of two queues;
Queue 1- From the car park to the main entrance, past the Tote office.
Queue 2- From Sutton Road to the main entrance.
- You will be greeted at the entrance by a trained volunteer (steward) who will direct you into church when it is your turn.
- A steward will then ask you or a member of your household/bubble to write your name and telephone number in the signing-in book, this is to facilitate track and trace if the need arises, we recommend that parishioners bring and use their own pen. The steward will ask you to sanitise your hands and read all of the signs in the foyer.
- The steward will open the inside door to the church for you and direct you to another steward who will direct you to your seat/s. Please follow the stewards and their instructions. There will be a maximum of 2 parishioners on a pew, sitting at opposite ends of the row. Household groups/bubbles will be permitted to share a pew, where possible we ask that members of the same household/bubble attend the same Mass in order to maximise the number of people in church.

- When in church you will notice that alternate rows of pews have been roped-off to restrict usage of these rows. This has been done to maintain social distancing requirements for your safety.
- When in church, please maintain silence where possible.
- It is very important that parishioners do not move around the church once the steward has shown you to your seats.
- When Mass begins, singing is not permitted although prayer responses are. Hand-shaking is also not permitted during the sign of peace.
- All parishioners must stay seated to receive Holy Communion. The Priest will move around the church, using the free rows to give Holy Communion. Please receive the host on your hand only.
- A collection will take place, we ask that you place your donation on the collection plate when exiting the church. Alternatively we welcome donations via standing order.
- Your dismissal will depend upon where you are sitting. There are 7 areas within the church as follows:
 - A- St Joseph's Chapel
 - B- Our Lady's
 - C- Lectern
 - D- Pulpit
 - E- Sacred Heart
 - F- Passion Chapel
 - G- The Sanctuary
- The stewards will dismiss one area of the church at a time, please be patient and follow their instruction. The order for dismissal will be areas A, B, C, D, F, E, G. Please remain silent until you have fully exited church.
- In order to exit church, you will be directed to walk through the side doors towards the Sacristy.
- Please turn left at the Sacristy and follow the corridor through to the back exit without touching any door handles (usual Sutton Road exit).
- There will be no toilet facilities available.
- There will be no lighting of candles permitted.
- Please respect the stewards; they are volunteering their time to help the church community and to keep you safe.
- The church has a reduced capacity due to social distancing regulations. We recommend that you arrive from 30 minutes before Mass to enable the stewards sufficient time to implement health and safety measures. Places in church will be allocated on a first-come-first-served-basis.
- Please maintain a minimum safe distance of 1 metre from others at all times.
- It is compulsory to wear face coverings for the safety of yourselves and other parishioners.
- If you are feeling unwell please stay at home and rest, following government guidelines.
- Please call the Parish office on 01213730143 if you develop symptoms of Covid-19 after attending Mass and follow government guidelines.

Please see the images below for further guidance and clarification:

1. Main entrance to church



2. Internal doors that a steward will open for you and take you to your seats



3. Please do not touch any of the statues



4. A steward will direct you to use the doors to the Sacristy for your exit



5. Please continue through the Sacristy doors towards the rear exit



6. The toilets will remain closed off



7. Please exit through the rear door (Sutton Road exit) without touching any handles

