

Covid-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance

Holy Cross, Catford

1. Please sanitise your hands at entrances and exits.
2. Face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn by those in church.
3. We undertake general cleaning of the church to a good standard, using commonly available cleaning fluids and detergents, and with attention to frequent touchpoints and this standard will continue.
4. **Social Distancing and Capacity of Churches:** From 19th July, there will be no legislation on social distancing in England... but we shall continue providing a reduced capacity with social distancing and the wearing of face masks **at every Saturday 6.30pm Mass.**
5. **Congregational Singing:** Indoor congregational singing will be permitted from 19th July. The use of cantor groups and other choirs is now permitted. It is recommended that singing should be phased in gently as part of worship over the summer period and that *face coverings should be worn by members of the congregation whilst singing together*, until infection levels reduce.
6. **Test, Track and Trace:** The NHS Test, Track and Trace system is in operation in our parish. Please sign in for acts of worship using the NHS app and the associated QR codes found at the entrance.
7. Please exercise good responsible behaviour, especially when making your way to receive Holy Communion during Mass, and you should continue to avoid getting too close to each other.
8. **Stewards [Welcome Ministers]:** Stewards will no longer be required to show people to designated seats etc. However, the stewards can assist in the cleaning of frequently used touch points within the church building after the Mass.
9. At this time, it is not recommended that Holy Water stoups are refilled.
10. All usual ministers for the celebration of Holy Mass can be deployed such as servers, cantors, readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
11. The offertory collection will be resumed in church with baskets.
12. It is recommended that the physical **Sign of Peace** remain suspended as it is not an integral part of the Mass, and its omission will help to reduce physical contact between people during the celebration.

13. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the ministers will continue to sanitise their hands beforehand and wear a face covering whilst distributing.
14. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand but those who wish to receive on the tongue may do so.
15. Baptisms now have no restrictions on numbers attending.
16. There is no restriction on the number of people that can attend funerals in the Church. Funerals in the form of a Requiem Mass should observe the recommendations for the Celebration of Holy Mass.
17. Home visits can now take place by priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and other volunteers. Please contact Fr Antony if you wish to do home visits and to know more about it.
18. The use of regular freely available covid-19 home test kits is recommended for those doing pastoral visits, to ensure they are not potential vectors of infection to those who are sick and medically vulnerable. These can be obtained through www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site
19. Parish social activities can be resumed from 19th July. It is strongly recommended that a risk assessment for both the activity and the space is completed for the gathering.
20. **Catechetical Groups/Formational Groups:** It is recommended that a blended mode of catechesis takes place moving forward, with a combination of both in-person meetings for those involved as well as online sessions.