

COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Following Friday's meeting of the Bishop's Council with reference to our Diocesan COVID restrictions. These decisions are taken in line with our on-going requirement to review and update our Diocesan risk assessments based upon the local prevailing conditions and risks.

Health officials in the region have advised that maintaining COVID control measures such as social distancing and face coverings throughout the autumn/winter period will be vital to controlling COVID infections. Infections are likely to rise as students return to schools and universities and as the virus becomes more active in the cooler weather when we tend to spend more time indoors.

- **Hand sanitiser** - use of hand sanitiser on entering and leaving church and before liturgies should continue.
- **Face coverings** - all those attending church are recommended to wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. Priests in the sanctuary, providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation, do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion.
- **Cleaning** – to follow the CBCEW Guidance which states, “General cleaning to a good standard, using commonly available cleaning fluids and detergents, with attention to frequent touchpoints is the standard to continue. Maintaining a good general standard of routine cleaning using usual cleaning detergents is sufficient for regular use.

Congregational Singing – to follow the CBCEW Guidance which states, “Indoor congregational singing will be permitted whilst wearing face coverings. From weekending 25th/26th September.

- **Hymn books** – can be reintroduced

One-way systems and movement of people - to follow the CBCEW Guidance which states, “It is no longer necessary to have one-way systems or other restrictions on movement in churches from this time onward.” From weekending 25th/26th September.

- **Celebration of Holy Mass** - to follow the CBCEW Guidance which states, “At this time, it is not recommended that Holy Water stoups are refilled.”

“It is recommended that the physical Sign of Peace remain suspended..., and its omission will help to reduce physical contact between people during the celebration.”

- **Holy Communion will remain in one kind only.**