



St Joseph's & St John the Baptist

CATHOLIC PARISH EAST BRIGHTON

WHAT TO EXPECT AT MASS - HOW WE MAKE SURE THE CHURCH IS SAFE

The Government has issued strict guidance on how places of worship can open safely, and the Bishops have produced detailed instructions for Catholic churches. We are ensuring that Mass is as normal as possible, while having all necessary measure in place for your safety and to ensure that you do not pose a risk to others.

At our Masses the important points are:

1. Ensure you have a mask and enter the church wearing the mask. This must be kept on at all times except communion
2. On entry you are asked to sanitise your hands, and to give your name and phone number to a welcomer. This ensures that the national track and trace service can contact you if a church attendee is later found to have the virus.
3. If the church has already reached safe capacity you will need to stand outside, only coming in for communion
4. In the church alternate rows are closed to ensure social distancing. On each open row either one family group or 2 people (at separate ends) can sit.
5. The national requirement is that the congregation must not sing. We have adjusted our Masses accordingly
6. Communion is at its normal point in the Mass, but it is important to avoid queuing. Only come up row by row, and ensure that going back to your seat you stay clear of people coming to receive.
7. The offertory is particularly important to us at this time, but for safety is at the end of Mass as you leave. Please drop your offering into the receptacle provided as you exit, or you can make a contactless payment with a debit or credit card by seeing the welcomer with the card machine. You may also want to think about paying online either for one off payments or a standing order – the instructions are on the website.
8. The national requirement is that people leave the church as soon as possible, but avoid bunching up at the congestion point of the door. So please consider staying in your seat until you can make an offering and leave without having to queue excessively.