

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Presbytery
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YELVERTON
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The Liturgy, Parish Events and Coronavirus

“As a number of cases in local communities or a case specifically linked to a parish community.”

As the above is the case in the Parishes of Tavistock and Yelverton, we are now in Stage 2 until further notice.

Having received guidance from the Catholic Bishop’s Conference we are implementing the following practices:

1. We have suspended the distribution under both kinds (the host will be given **on the hand only**).
2. The Presentation of the Gifts will take place as we might on a week day, i.e. there will be no formal presentation of the bread and wine.
3. The physical sign of peace has been suspended. Other signs of peace, which do not include physical contact, are permitted and encouraged in place of the customary handshake.
4. The holy water from the stoups as you enter church has been removed. Please continue to bless yourself by making a sign of the cross.
5. Public veneration of relics and the Cross on Good Friday will NOT be by kissing or physically touching them.
6. Catering (teas, coffees etc.) at parish gathering, where multiple people touch mugs, utensils, biscuits etc, has been suspended. As a result there will be no drinks after Masses and Lent Lunches have been cancelled.

7. Cease use of shared hymn books and missals which could help transmit the virus. Welcomers will not hand newsletters, sheets or hymns books out but encourage people to pick up their own copy after parishioners have used the hand sanitizer.

8. After Mass please take your newsletter home with you and do not replace it.

9. Everyone attending Mass is encouraged to sanitise their hands as they come into church using sanitized gel dispensers (these are available in porches or entrances).

10. We encourage everyone to maintain good hygiene especially at Mass and other public gathering.

11. From next Sunday in Tavistock (Sunday 15th March) the main collection will be taken as you leave church to avoid cross contamination. In Yelverton we will continue to follow the current practice with collector sanitizing their hands before and after the collection.

Additional Notes

The best way of protecting us from spread is still for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus. So, display the public information poster, which states: i. Catch it - sneeze into a tissue ii. Bin it - bin the tissue iii. Kill it - wash your hands with soap and water. Try to refrain from touching your face unless you've washed your hands.

Anyone with cold or flu symptoms should try to refrain from attending Mass, public events, nor attend the sacrament of reconciliation if you have any flu like symptoms. (You may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach).

We are looking at how we might be able to further restrict the spreading of the virus. For example, cleaning surfaces lots of people touch regularly including cleaning door handles before and after every Mass.

When visiting parishioners at home, wash hands before giving the sacraments. Pastoral visits to people who are self-isolating are not permitted until isolation ends. We are encouraged to offer phone support.

When visiting people in care homes or Hospitals we should follow advice from the staff on infection control.

While challenging, we thank you for your support with implementing the above practices which aim to help keep us all safe.



7th March 2020