

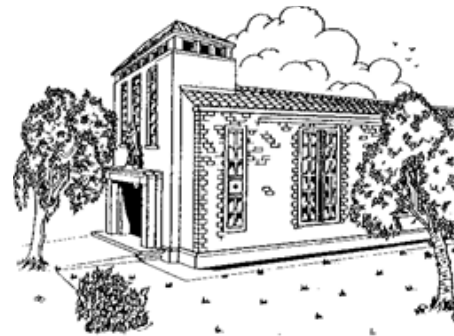
# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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7<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parishioners

Well, it is hard to believe it is barely 5 weeks since we started to resume saying public Holy Mass! Since then we have tried the new mass times and government guidance has changed. So tomorrow the 8<sup>th</sup> August is the first day when face coverings are required for church services - unless you are under 11 or have an exemption of course. Last week, the first of our 'shielders' came back to mass and what a joy that was to see people again.

Now that the new mass times have settled, we are making some changes to offer greater flexibility for our parishioners. The mass times will stay the same unless there is change required (e.g. a funeral):

**Saturday 1000** – the Sunday 'recorded' mass and for those with special circumstances – **attendance bookable only**

**Sunday 10.00 a.m., and 17.30 (5.30pm)**, designed for those whose cannot come during the week, families, and those with unpredictable shifts. (**for a guaranteed seat you will still need to book in advance. However, you can turn up on the day on a 'first come, first served basis'. You will need to arrive at least 10 minutes before mass starts**)

**Tuesday 1000** - for those who can come during a weekday- **attendance bookable only.**

**Wednesday 1930 (7.30pm)** for those who are on shifts and can come on an evening to take pressure away from Sundays. (**for a guaranteed seat you will still need to book in advance. However, you can turn up on the day on a 'first come, first served basis'. You will need to arrive at least 10 minutes before mass starts**)

**Thursday 1200 noon** for those who can come during a weekday. (**for a guaranteed seat you will still need to book in advance. However, you can turn up on the day on a 'first come, first served basis'. You will need to arrive at least 10 minutes before mass starts**)

**Saturday 10.00 a.m., and Tuesday 10.00 a.m.,** will remain **services only available by the booking system: [icmassbookings@gmail.com](mailto:icmassbookings@gmail.com)** or phone 0800 2461372 and leave a message.

The change now is:

**For a guaranteed seat you will still need to book in advance. However, you can turn up on the day on a 'first come, first served basis'. You will need to arrive at least 10 minutes before mass starts, and be prepared to wait for vacancies /cancellations. [Please wait by the garden side of the church].**

Please do let us know if you need to cancel, or make a change, by emailing: [icmassbookings@gmail.com](mailto:icmassbookings@gmail.com) or phone 0800 2461372 and leave a message. Any alterations or changes will normally be made on Wednesday of each week for the following week and we will do our best to help you. Just let us know if you have a query.

The Church will normally be open 30 minutes before mass commences. When the stewards are ready, they will open the porch door as a signal to come in.

[Seat numbers 1-10 are on the Sacristy Side and Numbers 11-20 are on the Lady Chapel side].

**Access for those with disabilities/ children's buggies-**

So that we can plan your seating and comfort, kindly advise us if you require any of the following:

- ramp access for those who cannot manage steps
- wheelchair or extra leg room space
- children's buggies

**NHS Track and Trace.**

As you know, we are required to take a record of everyone who attends to support the NHS track and trace system. The Government has requested that details are kept of those who have attended the church, for three weeks in case it is needed for track and trace purposes. It also allows us to pre plan the seating in the church which, as with all public buildings, currently has very limited capacity. To save time when you arrive, if you have not already given permission for NHS Test and Trace, please complete the form overleaf and return it to the porch/office. This is also available on the web.

We still need some volunteer stewards for some masses, particularly week days. So do let us know if you are not in a vulnerable category and can help. This involves:

- Welcoming people into the church and helping people with their hand sanitizing
- Assisting with the communion line
- Helping people to leave the church
- Cleaning the church after the mass (PPE is provided).

Overleaf are some points to note and guidelines we would ask you to follow to ensure we all remain as safe as possible:

Yours sincerely,

Fr Antony Gatt MA, MA, PhD  
Parish Priest

## Some guidance notes from the Diocese/Government

### Arriving:

- The Church will normally be open 30 minutes before the service commences. If possible, please try to stagger your arrival to avoid queuing outside the church (particularly in wet weather!)
- Please do not congregate outside the church before the service begins and maintain your 2 metres between household 'bubbles'.
- There is a one-way system operating in the church, with the entrance through the main porch and exit through the side fire exits
- The porch is very small, so we can only accommodate 2 people at a time in the porch.
- A steward will then show you straight to your seat – do not sit on seats marked with yellow hazard tape as they are marking out the social distance.

### **During the Service:**

- Please keep conversations to a minimum within the church to reduce droplets.
- Throughout the service we will remain seated as this helps to maintain social distance.

### **Holy Communion:**

We will be receiving Holy Communion on the way out. The stewards will guide you. When it is time for Holy Communion the Presiding Priest will say 'Body of Christ' to us all and we respond together by saying 'Amen'. If you are receiving Holy Communion, please then wait for the stewards to guide you. Any face coverings must be removed to receive Holy Communion. Communion is normally given in the hand. Place the palm of your hand *out flat* -one hand supported by the other towards the Priest. If you do not wish to take Holy Communion, please come forward and just nod to the Priest and depart through the exits. Alternatively, if you would like a blessing, just cross your hands in front of your chest.

### **Leaving the church:**

Collection boxes are available for offerings on the way out. Where possible, please bring gift aid envelopes or an ordinary envelope with your gift aid number on it. Unless otherwise specified, donations are for the general running of the church.

You may use the church grounds after the service to meet with people - socially distanced of course!

### **Additional Information:**

Toilets are available if necessary, please draw the attention of the steward and they will guide you.

Emergency personal water, medicinal and baby feeding is permitted, otherwise there is no eating or drinking in the church.

### [Guidance on how to wear face-coverings/masks](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

### [A video from the World Health Organisation](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/posters/COVID19-PPE-Safe-Mask-Wear-Poster.pdf>

### **Guidance on how to sanitise your hands**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnSjFr6J9HI>

This is also found on the noticeboard as you enter church or on this website