

THE PARISHES OF HOLY ROOD & OUR LADY AND ST JAMES

As of Wednesday 14th October we are in a COVID-19 High Risk Area. We need to be extra vigilant and follow the Government guidance published for Churches.

Those who are 70+ (regardless of medical condition) or under 70 with an underlying health condition are advised to stay at home as much as possible and to minimise contact with others outside of their household. Mass will be broadcast live from Holy Rood on Sunday (10am) and Wednesday (12noon) for those staying at home.

The following applies to all places of worship:

- **Do** follow the risk mitigations put in place, for example using the booking system, changes to entering and exiting and staggered arrivals.
- **Do** wear a face covering (unless you are exempt).
- **Do** provide your contact details to support the NHS Test and Trace service. This can be done via the NHS App by scanning the code on the door.
- **Do** make sure you only touch your belongings.
- **Do** take home any personal items brought to church, such as a prayer books or rosary beads.
- **Don't** break social distancing (2 metres between households) and avoid touching people outside of your household.
- **Don't** interact socially outside of your household or bubble.

A risk assessment has identified the following as specific problems for us:

- Queues forming outside the church, for example when waiting to register attendance, failing to observe the 2 meter rule. **Please keep the 2m rule and arrive early for Mass (Churches open 30 minutes before Mass) - avoid arriving just before start of Mass.**
- Social distancing is not always maintained in church. **Please keep the 2m rule inside church at all times when moving around AND sitting down. This includes avoiding chatting to parishioners behind you. Turning round compromises social distancing.**
- Arriving at Sunday Masses without a prior booking. **To attend Sunday Mass places MUST be booked in advance. No booking - no admittance.**
- Block booking places in advance thereby preventing others the opportunity to attend. Both Sunday Masses are consistently "sold out" early in the week. **Please consider others! Can you attend Mass on Wednesday rather than Sunday? Be fair by booking later in the week? There is no obligation to attend Mass at the present time.**
- Not dispersing immediately after exiting the church at the end of Mass (risking the rule of 6). **Please leave Mass in an orderly manner, maintaining social distancing at all times. No congregating near the church doors thereby allowing others exiting to do so in a safe manner.**

Thank you for your cooperation - we need to improve these areas to make Mass as safe as possible and to allow public celebrations to continue!

Fr Damian