

Father Hugh writes:

Now that we are open again, it may be useful to remind you of requirements when attending Mass.

- Face coverings must be worn in Church, and of course it's probably more comfortable to have your own rather than use disposable ones. However we keep a supply for emergency use.
 - Please make sure when receiving Holy Communion that you have your arms fully extended so as to maintain maximum distance.
 - It is a requirement in the re-opening that a priest/deacon wears a face mask for the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - It is also a requirement for readers to wear a face mask and perhaps a timely reminder for readers to please keep their hands off the ambo itself and to use the ribbon only for turning the page.
 - We could do with additional help for cleaning the church after Masses and especially on Christmas Day please. Cleaning materials, gloves and aprons are all here for the job! But you must be in the younger age group please too!!
 - I would also ask that you ensure distancing after Mass in the car park.
- All small points, but we must do all we can to reduce the risk to each other.
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This Second Sunday of Advent, gives a focus on John the Baptist who prepares the way for the Lord. The first chapter and verses states the theme of St Mark's Gospel, the gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord.

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the one who's greater than he is and who will give us the gifts of the Spirit.

We return to short liturgies as before the second lockdown, which means no singing, sign of peace etc. This includes our Christmas Masses.

If you haven't yet booked for Christmas day, I would encourage you to think about it, and also those members who may not be regular congregants, whom you know in the villages.

On Wednesday we will keep Tuesday's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. We read from St Luke's Gospel in chapter 1 who teaches us that Mary is perfectly graced by God, a woman to whom God has pledged his good favour forever. Mary willingly participates in the role chosen for her and so in time brings us God's only Son, for whose birth we await again in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

New Year's Day and Epiphany Masses:

When we were making plans at the weekend, we started thinking about New Year's day, and though it is early yet, we usually have a large congregation, so we think we will need to book a place for that in due course, BUT, NOT YET PLEASE.

We have also given some thought to the Epiphany, which in 2021 will be a mid-week Holyday (Wednesday 6th). I will be guided by you, but wonder if it would be helpful to have Mass at 10am that day or alternatively to have a second Mass at 6.30pm for those who will be at work.

Let me know please what would be best for you all.

