

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Parish of Firhouse

Reopening for Worship – Everything has changed!!!

It's genuinely going to be a shock, and please be ready for it. There is a lot of nervousness around returning to church and we are working hard to keep everybody safe and at the same time, continue to provide as best we can, as we have throughout the pandemic for our parishioners and our own parishioners are our priority at this time. Please be assured of this. If what is contained below appears harsh or difficult, we deeply regret this, but please realise we are striving to act for the common good right now.

BEFORE MASS CAN START, WE NEED LOADS OF VOLUNTEERS!

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

- The COVID-19 Parish Support team has been set up and meets regularly and has surveyed the Church.
- The Masses on Saturday Evening and Sunday morning will resume, 6 pm (Vigil), 9.30 am & 11 am.
- The 10 am Mass on weekdays will return.
- The Church will only be open when it is safe to do so when and we can safely comply with what we are asked to do.
- The Sunday Obligation remains dispensed with, meaning you do not have to go to Mass on Sunday.
- Parish Webcam will continue as during the Pandemic.
- While there will be music hopefully from a soloist and musician at 11 am Mass on Sunday, full choirs cannot attend initially.
- Church doors will open 30 minutes before the start of each Mass.
- Missalettes will be available, and you may take it home with you, or they will be removed after each Mass. Fresh missalettes will be available for the next Mass.
- There will be no Collection Bags, receptacles will to be available in church for all envelopes.
- For Health and Safety reasons our Toilets will be closed for the time being, so please attend the Toilet before leaving home.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- A limited number of places will be reserved for Anniversary / Months Mind Masses.
- Parishioners will be asked to attend Mass no more than once per week for the first two weeks initially.

COVID PROTECTION / SELF & OTHERS

- It is being made clear to us that not everybody wishes to attend Mass immediately.
- Anybody who is feeling unwell with flu like symptoms should not attend Mass.
- Follow correct respiratory etiquette – cover your face while coughing or sneezing.
- Please comply with the instructions of stewards at all times.
- There is no longer any such thing as your 'usual seat' – this will be difficult.
- Those who do not obey the stewards instructions will be asked to leave.

ENTERING AND LEAVING SEATS / CHURCH

- Entry to the Church by Main Entrance Door only.
- Please sanitize your hands on entering the Church.
- Maintain the correct social distance at all times.
- Stewards will show parishioners to their seats, filling the Church from the top of each Aisle.
- When the Church has reached capacity, no further members of the congregation will be admitted.
- All members of the congregation are asked to be in their seats five minutes before the start of Mass.
- Congregation will be asked to leave seat by seat using all doors.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

- Eucharistic Ministers MUST wear provided face coverings and sanitize hands thoroughly.
- For the time being, those who wish to receive Holy Communion are requested to do so only on the hand.
- If needed, please follow the instructions of the stewards at Holy Communion time and stand on only clearly marked socially distanced places.
- One-way system only for Holy Communion, up by the Centre Aisle and return by the window Aisles in each section of the Church, it will be single file approaching for Holy Communion.