

Guidance for Weddings and Funerals

As of 4th July 2020, Weddings and Funerals in Church are permitted. Churches are asked to follow these guidelines when planning weddings or funerals:



Observe all existing guidelines: the guidelines for re-opening for Mass (July 2020) also apply to Weddings and Funerals held in the Church: social distancing, face-covering, handwashing etc.



Limit the number of attendees: the government strongly advises that no more than 15 people be in the Church for a funeral or a wedding service (this includes the priest/deacon and the couple to be married)



You may host a reception: provided that no more than thirty people attend, that all social distancing guidelines are followed, and that the reception is a sit-down dinner (i.e. not a buffet or other kind of party).



A Nuptial Mass, Requiem or Funeral Mass is permitted, provided that the normal guidelines concerning Mass are followed.

Practical Advice



Ask the organiser to give you a **full list of attendees** in advance, with their names and contact details. Have a steward on the door to check names off the list before allowing them into the Church. In order to aid with 'Test and Trace', this list should be kept for 21 days.



Send an email or other communication to all those you are expecting to attend in advance of the event, to let them know what is going to happen on the day and what restrictions are in place.



Make an announcement before the service begins, welcoming people and reminding them of the restrictions which have been put in place for their safety.



Put a notice in the Newsletter and on your website explaining that, due to the limited number of people allowed in Church, the Church will not be open during the service.



Consider live-streaming, (or allowing the organiser to arrange a live-stream) if you are not already doing so, for those who are unable to attend.



Ensure there is a Steward on the door, either a parish volunteer or one arranged by the organiser, to ensure that attendees cooperate with the guidelines and that the capacity limit is maintained.



Group photos should be discouraged as it is difficult to maintain social distancing during a group photo.