

# Coronavirus Guidance Updates

Following updated guidance issued by the government (as of 5<sup>th</sup> November) we are making the following updates and changes to our guidelines for parishes.

## Places of Worship

From the 5<sup>th</sup> November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the regulations preclude gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass. In the current regulations, places of worship are permitted to remain open for certain purposes, and to attend a place of worship is listed as a reasonable excuse to leave home. More detail is given below:



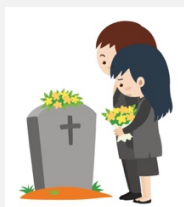
Gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass are not permitted



Remaining open for private prayer is allowed



Weddings are only permitted when one of those getting married is seriously ill and is not expected to recover. Such weddings are limited to 6 people excluding the priest



Funeral Masses and funeral services may continue to be celebrated, with an attendance of up to 30 people (not including those who are required for the celebration).



Life cycle events are not allowed. However, Baptism should be made available if the child/adult is seriously ill and is not expected to recover



Churches may be used for Mass and other services to be streamed, without a congregation present. Musicians, singers and those helping with the provision of live streaming services may participate in online services, as long as they usually form part of the service that is being broadcast and are essential to its delivery.

## Charitable Outreach

### Activities allowed within church premises



Blood Donation services can still be conducted with church premises



Food banks can continue within the church premises



Essential support groups can continue in person with up to 15 participants. Providing mutual aid, therapy, education or any other form of formal support is allowed.

This includes support to victims of crime, people in drug and alcohol recovery, new parents and guardians, people with long-term illnesses, people facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement.

### Social Distancing and Other Measures

It is important that the routines of cleanliness, safety measures and social distancing to which we have become accustomed, and which have made our churches places of real Covid security, are maintained.



Face coverings should continue to be worn in churches, unless individuals are exempt.



The maximum number of people allowed in a church for prayer will be determined by its size, seating arrangements and the requirements for social distancing in accordance with venue risk assessments.



At least one metre distance between people at all times. (ideally 2 metres).



Provide hand sanitiser at the entrance and clean the church regularly.



Remove Hymn books and shared materials.



Track and Trace Steps must be in place to record visitors to the church

Further Information can be found at this link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#weddings-civil-partnerships-and-funerals>