

COVID -19 ROUTE MAP: Step 4 Guidance

During the Covid-19 pandemic the normal rhythm of Catholic Life has been disturbed. There have been times when there has been no public celebration of Mass. Thanks to live streaming people have been able to follow Mass. Good as this has been, it cannot be a substitute for being physically present at Mass. The Mass is central to our Christian lives. The Second Vatican Council teaches that the Mass, "is the source and summit of our Christian lives". Cardinal Henri de Lubac the distinguished theologian of the 20th century said of the Mass, "The Eucharist makes the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist." While it is true the obligation to be at Mass on Sundays has been temporarily suspended, I would like to encourage all parishioners to return to Mass. If you are anxious about numbers, by all means come to a quieter weekday Mass. The pandemic is still among us, so the safety of those in Church is of paramount importance and we must move forward slowly but steadily.

Based on the guidance from the Bishops of England and Wales, this is the Route Map for our two Churches which will come into force as from the weekend of 31st July/1st August.

- **The 9am Mass will move back to Kirtling**
- **Hand Sanitizing and Face Coverings**
Hands should be sanitised on entering and leaving the Church. Face coverings should be worn, unless you are medically exempt.
- **Track & Trace**
To comply with government requirements at Sunday Mass, please continue to book online or by phone. You can also use the QR code in Newmarket Church, or sign the list which will be available in both Churches.
- **Social Distancing**
The requirement to socially distance has been lifted. To compensate for this seating capacity has been doubled.
- **Music and Singing**
Singing with a mask in place is permitted: cantors are exempt. Music will be reintroduced in August with those parts of the Mass which are normally sung.
- **Preparation of the Gifts**
The Bread and Wine will be carried in procession to the Alter at the weekend. The collection baskets for the time being will remain at the back of the Church.
- **Holy Communion**
Holy Communion will continue to be given in one kind only. There will now be two lines for Holy Communion at weekend Masses in Newmarket.
- **Servers**
Servers will return in September.

Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation.
Fr. Christopher.