

COMING TO CHURCH: WHAT TO EXPECT...

We are now beginning to resume public worship in some of our churches – beginning with St James in Louth this Sunday. This is a quick idea of what to expect and is based on present guidance.

It is important that if you have, or suspect you may have, any of the symptoms of COVID-19 you DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH – instead you should follow the government advice to self-isolate with other members of their household, and follow government advice.

What to bring with you

- Hand cleanser, yourself, and as little else as possible!
- You may also wish to wear a face covering to help protect others in case you are an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19

Entering the church

- The doors will open about 10-15minutes before the service is due to start. If you need to wait outside, please make sure you maintain social-distancing between you and those who you talk to.
- Before you come in, you will be asked to confirm your name and a means to contact you in case we need to contact you as a result of an infection.
- Seating will be limited to less than 10% of our normal capacity, and we will try to maximise how many people can be seated safely. The vergers will show you to a seat. Seats are marked out for one or two people to sit with each other, with appropriate distancing between each group (there is limited accommodation for slightly larger household groups in the aisle (which will still have a clear view of the altar!). Please be understanding of the fact that this means there is not the normal freedom to choose our seats!
- If you wish to make an offering to support the work of the Church, there will be an opportunity to do this as you enter or leave the church.

During the service

- A copy of the Weekly Notes, including an order of service will be in your place. Please use this, and then take it with you at the end of the service.
- You are asked to remain in your place throughout the service, unless the person leading the service gives different instructions.
- Congregational singing is not allowed, as this presents a potential risk of transmission by aerosol spray. Until more investigation has taken place, any sung parts of the liturgy will be sung on behalf of all by a cantor in the chancel.
- We ask people not to share the peace or greet each other with physical gestures.

After the service

- Please take your copy of the Weekly Notes with you – do not leave it in your place! If you do not wish to take it home with you there will be a box to put it in as you leave (it will then be kept for 72 hours before possible reuse).
- Please leave the church building as directed. At present there will be no refreshments and people are asked not to socialise after the service – if the weather is good and you wish to greet others outside, please do remember to maintain social-distancing.