

HOLY WEEK 2021

Specific Guidance from our Bishops

Virus transmission is still high, and all the usual requirements of social distancing, sanitising etc. continue. Booking for each ceremony is essential.

We should not congregate within or outside the church buildings. The churches will be cleaned after each service as they are at present.

Palm Sunday

- ❖ Palms will be blessed at the front of the church
- ❖ The people will not be sprinkled with holy water and the palms are to be given out by gloved stewards as the congregation leaves church
- ❖ The shorter form of the Passion from the Gospel of St Mark is to be read. This year the congregation will not speak the parts attributed to the crowd in the Gospel narrative. This is a real regret because it limits participation in an important telling of Jesus' story. Taking all steps to stop possible spread of infection is the thinking behind this.

Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

- ❖ No Washing of Feet this year.
- ❖ No procession to an Altar of Repose. The Blessed Sacrament will be kept in the tabernacle in church. We will pause for a short time of prayer at the end of Mass before leaving the sanctuary area and the church. There will be no 'watching'
- ❖ The altar will not be stripped this year.

Good Friday

- ❖ Again, the crowd parts in the Passion according to St John will not be said by the congregation. We can have three voices reading the Passion if social distance can be maintained.
- ❖ A special prayer 'For those afflicted in the Pandemic' will be added to the Intercessions.
- ❖ For obvious reasons there will be no kissing of the Cross. The priest alone will do this on behalf of us all. Everyone will remain in their places and be invited to simply venerate the Cross with a bow and a short silence.
- ❖ We are asked to take a collection for the Holy Places of Palestine.

The Easter Vigil

- ❖ The Paschal Candle is to be prepared, enthroned, and lit in the sanctuary before people gather in church.
- ❖ The congregation will not have candles for the Vigil this year.
- ❖ After the Renewal of Baptismal Promises there will be no sprinkling of holy water and the holy water stoups around the church will remain empty.

Easter Sunday

- ❖ Mass should be just as we've experienced it over recent months, maintaining all the usual safety requirements.

If you have any questions, do please ask. Booking for each ceremony is essential so that we don't exceed the numbers allowed to us. We'd love to welcome everyone, but safety must come first. Thank you.

Fr Dennis.

