

Some Suggested Guidelines to follow during Christmas Masses in the Parish

1. People who come early, if you are happy to assist you could be at the door and welcome people with a nice greeting and usher people to a safe seat. I would like two people to be helping at the door. But please keep safe distance, wear masks and preferably greet people outside or just at the entrance. If you are happy to be of help, do let me know or just come and help. I am sure I need not tell, you will avoid chatting inside the Church, or block the entrances or exists chatting, just for this time at least please.
2. Masks are now mandatory, unless exempted. If you really find it hard with the mask then it would good for you to go to the church hall. I am leaving it open.
3. **I will be opening up both church halls, in Kidlington & Woodstock** to occupy during the services and I shall bring holy communion to the hall. In Woodstock, all the masses will be relayed to the hall. So it should be a very safe comfortable setting. I would want someone to help with the assisting and welcoming people at the hall doors please if you could. People entering the hall should not go through the sacristy area entrance door. But go right round with fresh air and so enter the hall from the garden/ carpark entrances please. Those familiar with the setup please do not hesitate to come forward and assist.
4. We would now expect each one to take care of oneself and more importantly keep the other safe. I would like households or families or bubbles to occupy a bench (pew), others occupy with a safe distance. Please, at least out of courtesy ask the person next to you if that would be ok for you to occupy the seat, **but always must be at a safe distance**.
5. Sitting or standing make sure the distance is kept and masks are worn. The really really bad scenario is for some one to be seated in the front pew whilst you keep standing and answer prayers. So please make sure before you stand there is safe distance to the person in the front pew. Similarly when you sit make sure the person behind you is seated or at a safe distance.
6. Sanitise hands as you enter church and leave, if you happened to sneeze or cough, more importantly when you come to communion make sure

you sanitise your hands with your own sanitising kit or those provided in church.

7. We shall avoid singing bellowing, but wearing masks you may hum the hymns. The choir will sing with or without masks as safely as they feel they could do it. They will be singing for us.
8. Windows will be opened in the church, if not all, most windows will be. What is important is to keep a careful flow of the air. So even with a few windows open thoughtfully we can maintain the flow of air. However, it would be better to leave as much as is possible open in a sensible way. So the point I was trying to make was that its best to wrap up yourself well!!
9. Please bring a bottle of water with you if you think you are likely to cough or feel uncomfortable, tissues, hankies etc. to wipe nose and hands.
10. Changing seats and walking up and down, is a bad idea. Lets keep to the one way flow and stick to where we choose to sit, unless you feel that its no longer safer to do so.
11. I know most or all of you are already following all these very carefully with a care mostly for the other, even more than yourself. I thank you for that. That is ultimately the Christian message. The worry is those that do not know the set up, do not read these emails or newsletters and so just walk into church because it is Christmas. I like to welcome them all, but worry if they do not come without wearing masks or not wearing it properly etc. or walking about with no regard for the other. I pray that it would be better for one to stay at home than to come to church for the wrong reasons. But I know, who am I to say that, when God works in marvellous ways, which is beyond our comprehension! You know that this is not an encouragement for people to hop-in-out for wrong reasons. As a rule of thumb, if we do something we must do it for the right reasons, or at least must try our best. I know it is not always the case.
12. The last point, if you feel unwell in the slightest or have been in close contact with anyone unwell, and have any doubts then best for your to stay at home and follow the service prayer fully.

Missalettes are not handed out. So either you can come with your own pint copy or have it on your phone (but remember to put the phone to flight mode). If you bring your own printed copy of the readings, remember to take it bac with you without leaving it in the church.