

Coronavirus Updated Advice – Stage 2

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have heightened Coronavirus protections to Stage 2 of the guidelines. Some of the measures of this stage are already in force within the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The key points for parishes to take into consideration are given below and are to be implemented with immediate effect.

New Measures:

1. Public veneration of relics and the Cross on Good Friday should not be by kissing or physically touching them.
2. Those most vulnerable (elderly, people with weakened immune systems and long-term conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease) to refrain from parish gatherings and stay at home.
3. Stop the use of shared hymn books and missals which could help transmit the virus.
4. Anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from attending services and events and not to attend the sacrament of reconciliation (Confession) if symptomatic (A person may just have an ordinary cold but it's important to ensure a precautionary approach).
5. Do not pass the collection plate around-
At St Helen's the collection will be taken after Mass as parishioners leave the church.
6. Suspend catering (teas, coffees etc) at parish gatherings where multiple people touch mugs, utensils, biscuits etc.

The new measures run alongside what we have already implemented.

- Suspended distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds (the Sacred host to be given on the hand only).
- Suspended the physical sign of peace, if a Sign of Peace is to be exchanged a bow or simple nod of the head will suffice.
- Removal of holy water stoups.
- Ensuring ministers of Communion sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion.

Events

Events in our parish and diocese are likely to be postponed or cancelled please see a list below. For your convenience please check if an event is going ahead before attempting to attend as this information is quickly changing.

Ladies Circle (Parish Hall)	No meetings until further notice
Mother & Toddler Group	No meetings until further notice
St Helen's Day Meeting (15 th March)	Postponed
Franciscan Group (Parish Hall)	No meetings until further notice
Joint School Lenten Service (17 th & 18 th March)	Cancelled
St Helen's First Holy Communion Preparation (18 th March)	Postponed- Information to follow next week.
Lenten Lunches (Cornerstones)	Cancelled
Dementia Mass (St Anne's Newport)	Postponed
Wales & The Marches Catholic History Society (Sunday 15 th March)	Postponed

Fundamental to all our actions to try and contain the spread of the virus is to ensure that everyone maintains good hygiene especially at Mass and parish gatherings

The best way of protecting us from spread is still for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus.

For more information visit:

<https://phw.nhs.wales>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

<https://rcadc.org/coronavirus>

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>