

Guidance for those attending Mass at St Austin's Priory and St Monica's from 10 Jan 2021 during the current COVID-19 lockdown.

We are all pleased that churches are to remain open for communal worship during the current lockdown. As individuals, you may choose not to attend church if you need to shield or wish to be cautious. In which case, please take advantage of various online worship that is available. If you choose to attend Masses, you are most welcome to do so. If you are able, consider attending a midweek Mass as an alternative to the Sunday Mass. If numbers are not too great, we intend to admit all who present themselves. Given the increase in the infection rate and the unknown threat of the new strain of the virus, the Bishop has suggested that our vigilance should increase. In accordance with that, we would ask those who attend Masses at Ivybridge and Modbury to adhere to the following guidelines. Some simply reinforce previous practise, but some are new.

1. Arrive in good time to allow for safe seating before the Mass begins.
2. Wear a facemask as you approach the church and throughout the Mass.
3. Always follow the direction of stewards.
4. Use the hand sanitiser in the entrance and, if you have the NHS App on your phone, use it to register your attendance.
5. Try to maintain a distance of 2m as you enter, move around, and leave the church.
6. Once seated, you must remain in place until the end of the Mass. If you need assistance, please attract the attention of a steward.
7. Only use the side aisles at St Austin's if directed to do so by a steward.
8. A maximum choir of 6 may sing at St Austin's, but there will be no congregational singing.
9. Stand and sit as required, but please only kneel if you can maintain a distance of more than 1m from those in front of you.
10. The distribution of communion will take place at the end of the Mass, as you leave the church. Remain seated until a steward invites you to receive communion, or a blessing, or exit the church.
11. When you approach to receive communion: leave your mask in place until you have moved away from the priest; extend your arms to receive the blessed sacrament on your flat hand; and avoid contact with the priest while doing so. There will be no verbal exchange between the priest and the communicant. Once you have received the blessed sacrament on your hand, step to the side, and once you are at a safe distance, lift your mask to consume the blessed sacrament. After receiving communion, leave the church promptly while using the hand sanitiser, following direction from the stewards. If you are unstable on your feet, remain seated and communion will be brought to you.
12. Once outside, maintain a distance of 2m from those who are not part of your household or support bubble. It is a chance to talk to friends, but please do not linger and depart the area promptly.