



The Catholic Churches of
Immaculate Conception
with **Holy Trinity**



Henley House, 12 Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW
www.immaculate-conception.org.uk
The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No: 234216

Exciting news from Catholic Bicester!! EVERY DAY IS A SUNDAY!! We are returning for Mass from next Saturday 4 July at Immaculate Conception. There are strict rules and regulations. Please read the following. They must be complied with. Each Mass will be live streamed.

Every day is a Sunday:

From Saturday 4th July we will be able to celebrate public Mass once more. After such a long break, we know that people will want to return to Mass, but please, please be careful, be confident and you must follow the rules. Mass will not be the same as before. Be prepared for a difference.

First of all, remember that the **Sunday obligation remains suspended**. We are encouraged by the Church to stagger our attendance at Mass to include weekdays to avoid over-capacity on Sunday. Parishes are encouraged to continue to live stream Mass whenever possible and we will do this.

We have plenty of Catholics in Bicester that start initially with Immaculate Conception and we will need to see how we progress from there. We are dependent however on volunteers to steward Mass; even they not present we cannot have Mass. Please consider if you can help as a steward to welcome people, assist with managing procession for Holy Communion, to help people leave and clean the Church after each Mass.

We are proposing to have Mass at **9.30 am** on **Tuesday's & Thursday's** starting on **Saturday 4th July at 10 am & 6.00pm**. Sunday Mass will be at **11.00 am** from Sunday 5th July. Each mass will be live streamed and available via <https://mcnmedia.tv/iframe/e8896647923e089406131a3b96e45994de4a89c4> and via Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/parish.priest.7758>

Mass at Hethe will be every Saturday starting on 11th July at 10 am.

ESSENTIAL RULES TO FOLLOW AND COMPLY WITH

The existing arrangements in place for individual private prayer will remain; access for all via front door, no access from the St John Paul II Centre, use of hand gel on arrival, candles lit by yourselves, one-way system and exit via the fire door (near to the first pew on your right) towards the Memorial Garden.

There is no one obvious fair and equitable way of allocating spaces for Mass. Therefore, I have decided that people who wish come for Mass must email or telephone the Parish. If place is not available, you will receive an email or phone call. When the Church reaches capacity no further entry will be allowed. If you volunteer to steward/Clean you have a place.

The Archdiocese has decided that it will permit social distancing of 1 metre plus in our Churches ***SUBJECT TO COMPULSARY WEARING OF FACE COVERING***. If you arrive for

Mass and you do not have a face covering you will not be allowed entrance (unless you are asthmatic or under 5). The celebrant will be obliged to stop mass if this obligation is ignored.

We will provide seating family groups. At the same time, we will allocate four benches for the family groups of four. Elsewhere in the Church there will be places for couples and individuals. Only occupy the family accommodation if you are from the same household or in a pre-arranged bubble.

Children are welcome but there will be no children's liturgy, no reading resources and it will be essential that parents can ensure that they satisfy the special distance requirements.

There must be no standing at the back of Church. Once capacity is reached there will be no entrance allowed.

DETAILS OF THE MASS

Mass will be shorter than a normal Sunday Mass. There will be no singing, no bidding prayers, a shorter homily and no offertory procession.

We will provide a separate Lectern for the reader

There will be close attention to details to ensure social distancing and cleanliness during Mass by celebrant and deacon.

After the "Lord I am not worthy to receive you..." the celebrant will raise the host and say, "The Body of Christ" to which the response will be "Amen" and the Holy Communion will be distributed on the hand only in SILENCE.

The celebrant and deacon will not wear a face covering until it is time for the distribution of Holy Communion, but they will at that point.

Stewards will guide people forward for Holy Communion or a blessing. As one approaches remove face covering, stretch out hands, receive Holy Communion, may move across, consume, re-apply face covering and return to place.

OTHER POINTS TO NOTE

- As there is no offertory, there will be collection at the entrance and exit.
- If you are watching online, please consider making an online contribution
- **Toilets will remain closed**
- The Choir loft will not be accessible.
- Choir area and Our Lady Chapel will not be accessible.
- There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church. If you wish to make your confession, you will need to make an appointment to see me Canon John in the Presbytery garden. You do this by contacting the office between 9 am and 10 am on the day you wish to make confession.
- The Church will be cleaned after every Mass.

God bless you

Canon John Y Batthula
Parish Priest & Dean