



**St Canice's Parish Church**  
**Planning for Return to In-Church Worship**



Dear Parishioner

I am delighted that we are returning to some sense of normality with the reopening of St Canice's for public worship on Sunday 6 September. This leaflet tells you about our plans to keep us all safe, and meet government and church authorities' requirements. Please be assured that, in developing these plans, we have taken account of your views expressed response to our questionnaire.

QUESTIONS	WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
<p><b>Who can attend?</b></p> <p>All parishioners are warmly invited to attend for worship. Occasionally, there may be some visitors who wish to join us, as previously.</p> <p>If you are feeling unwell or have a temperature or other flu-like symptoms, please do not come to church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are required to maintain a record of everyone who attends a service. When you enter the building, you will be asked to collect a card and we would ask you to put your name and contact details on it so that we know who was present if there is a subsequent need for contact tracing. After the service, this card should be left in the receptacle provided at the exit.</li><li>• To offer reassurance to others, we will use a handheld thermometer to take your temperature. If your temperature is raised, we will advise that do not join us at this service.</li></ul>
<p><b>How will social distancing be maintained?</b></p> <p>The current rule is that individuals not from the same household must maintain a distance of 2 metres between themselves and others. This means the number of people attending any service will be reduced to between 34 – 50 (the larger number recognises that families can share a pew).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will introduce a booking system for those who wish to attend. <u>Please ring Willie Robb, Parish Administrator on 07719516879. Early booking is advised.</u></li><li>• When you book, we will tell you the best time to arrive, so it is easier for social distancing to be maintained on the way into church.</li><li>• You will notice, on entering the building, that there are markers on the floor (as in shops) indicating where you should stand to meet the 2m requirement.</li><li>• The pews and chairs have been marked out at 2m distance. Unfortunately, you will not be able to choose where to sit. You will be guided to the next available seat and we will fill the church from the front to the back.</li><li>• You will enter by the front door and exit by the back door, through the Vestry. You will be guided by stewards.</li></ul>

<b>What hygiene measures will be in place?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitisers will be placed at the entrance to and exit from the church.</li> <li>• Tissues will be available at the end of every row and should be used if you need to cough or sneeze.</li> <li>• Face coverings/masks must be worn. Some will be available if you forget to bring your own.</li> <li>• You will be asked to dispose of any tissues or disposable masks safely as you leave the church.</li> <li>• The toilets will closed, except for emergencies, as they would have to be cleaned after each use. This is not practical during worship.</li> <li>• The church will be cleaned regularly according to health service advice.</li> </ul>
<b>How will worship be different?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rector and others involved in leading worship will adopt appropriate measures to keep you safe, including wearing protective equipment and not shaking hands.</li> <li>• Pre-recorded music will be played, but there will be no singing.</li> <li>• Readings will be pre-recorded so that the microphone is not shared. News sheets will be placed on the seating so you can follow the readings.</li> <li>• Services will last 30-40 minutes</li> <li>• We will not be having Holy Communion for the first month at least</li> </ul>
<b>How can we leave the church safely?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clergy will announce at the end of the service how worshippers are to leave.</li> <li>• Parishioners will leave pew by pew, starting from the front, as guided.</li> <li>• Bins will be available for disposal of masks and tissues.</li> <li>• There will a box for your contact details.</li> <li>• Collection plates will also be at the exit.</li> </ul>
<b>How can I join in worship if I do not feel ready to return to church yet?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services will continue to be shared online.</li> </ul>

This is a challenging time and I know, initially, it will feel strange to adopt some of the practices outlined above. I assure you these have been developed to protect you and your fellow worshippers from risk of harm.

Praying for the Lord's presence, peace and protection for you and your loved ones,

**Rev Canon Paul Hoey, Rector**