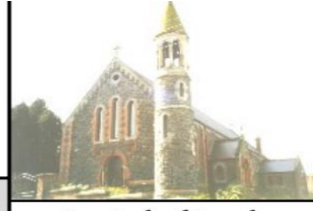




Saint Nicholas'

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead

www.carrickparish.org



Our Lady of Lourdes

Returning to the Public Celebration of Mass

2nd August 2020

It is with great joy that we once again see the doors of our Churches open. There are several things that we will have to get used to as we live with the new reality of smaller congregations.

Very stringent risk assessments have been completed at the request of the Diocesan Office.

These are not normal times and the measures that we have in place in the Parish are to protect you and your families. Resumption of Mass is not a resumption to what we have known in the past. We are in uncharted territory and so we will be keeping all these regulations under constant review. We ask you to be patient and understanding as we implement all the requirements that will ensure your safety.

The Parish has taken significant steps to make the Church ready for the public celebration of Mass in the light of Covid-19 and the public health requirements. We remind you that a recorded Mass will be available which can be viewed on www.carrickparish.org

There will be regulations and procedures in place, and we ask that you co-operate with us in implementing these.

- We ask that you wash and sanitise your hands before you leave your home. Hand sanitising dispensers are installed at all doors. Please hand sanitise on entrance and exit of the Church.
- Face coverings are advised for everyone who attends Church.
- There will be a one-way system in place and stewards will be present to show you to your seat and to guide the congregation's movements while in the Church.
- Two metre distancing will be strictly adhered to at all times. The seats are marked with an indicator where you can sit. Please use these indicators as they will ensure 2 metre distancing. Families who share the same household will be allowed to share the same seat.

The capacity in Saint Nicholas Church is 38 units. A unit can be 1-4 members of the same household. And in Our Lady of Lourdes it is 15 units. To maintain social distance as directed by the Diocese. This will mean a much smaller than usual congregation.

To allow fairness in Church attendance, admission to the Sunday Masses will be by surname on a rota basis. This means that it will not be possible for everyone to attend Mass every Sunday, but additional Masses will be celebrated, if required, to enable everyone to attend Mass at least every 5 weeks.

The dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day obligation is extended for the time being.

Collection baskets will not be circulated through the Church. Collection of your weekly envelope will be at collection points as you enter and leave the Church. Alternatively, you may continue to use the Standing Order system if you have set one up.

Receiving of Holy Communion will be row by row ensuring that the 2-metre regulation is observed. Markers on the floor in the main aisle will help to assist with this. Please observe the markings at all times when you leave your seat. The Priest will be wearing a face shield for the distribution of Holy Communion. Holy Communion will be distributed in the HAND ONLY.

We ask you to follow directions as given by the Stewards in Church, who have generously volunteered their time and service. This will ensure safety for all of us. All these regulations demand patience, cooperation, and a sense of social responsibility, as well as Christian fraternity, from all of us.

A number of Covid 19 restrictions are still firmly in place:

You are advised to self-isolate at home and please do not come to Mass if.

- you show any symptoms of the Covid-19.
- you are unwell.
- you have any underlying condition and you have been advised to shield at home.
- you were in close contact with a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of the virus.

If you are over 70 or in the extremely vulnerable group, please follow the guidelines as laid down by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Surname Rota:

To allow fairness in Church attendance, admission to the Sunday Masses will be arranged by surname. Therefore, households whose surnames begin with the following letters are invited to attend Mass on that specified Sunday.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehead 9.30am

Sunday	Surnames starting with
2 nd August 2020	A-E
9 th August	F-L
16 th August	M and Mc
23 rd August	N-Q
30 th August	R-Z

Mount St Nicholas, Carrickfergus 11.30am

Sunday	Surnames starting with
2 nd August 2020	A-C
9 th August	D-I
16 th August	J-M
23 rd August	Mc
30 th August	N-Z

Where people in a household have different surnames, please use the surname of the person whose name is recorded on the Parish envelopes or, where this is not applicable, the surname of the eldest person in the household. And if anyone car shares, the driver's surname would be used.