



Welcome to Holy Cross Abbey Church

Revised June 2021

We are delighted to receive visitors to our church once more, albeit a slightly different experience. All through the time of lockdown the sisters have continued to pray the divine office in church each day and have remembered you all in our prayers.

To keep everyone safe we have to do things differently:

1. Booking to come to church

- Please email your completed Contact Card using the button on the website at least 24hrs before you plan to visit the church.
- We will announce the times of Mass/ Eucharistic Service on the website and Facebook
- For private prayer, the church will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 3pm-4pm
- Due to social distancing we can only accept 5 different households or a maximum number of 9 people, we are sorry to be able to offer so few places. Please book well in advance and also if things change and you are no longer able to use your booking please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer it to another
- Sadly we have to insist that you pre book before coming to Mass or Private prayer

2. Entering & Exiting the Church

- To meet the requirement to have a one-way system there is a new entrance at the side of the church (the Hermitage Door). A sister will show you if this is your first visit
- Inside the church you will see the seating arrangement is slightly different please do not move the chairs as they have been placed 2m apart
- The one-way system is sign-posted, a sister will guide you

- The front door is the new exit from the church
- We need to wear facemasks

3. Hand Hygiene

- Please sanitise your hands when you enter the church and when you leave, and also after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose

4. Seating and common touch points

- The church chairs and benches, surfaces and door handles will be cleaned and sanitised after use. We have reduced the number of items of furniture to make cleaning easier.

5. During the Mass

- Congregational singing is now permitted, as well as the sisters sing / chant the Mass and Divine Office. The window will be open so you will need to wear extra clothing.
- Holy Communion will be given in the hand only.
- Communion will be taken to each person and given in their places
- Communion will be given in silence.
- Please remove your face mask and fully stretch out your arms and hold out your hands to receive communion.
- At the end of Mass please leave via the Front Door and sanitise your hands. Once outside with 2m distancing then it is possible to chat, although we are not encouraged to linger.

6. There is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass during the Pandemic

7. The Divine Office

- The Divine Office will be sung / chanted by the sisters. Guests coming for the office need to let us know and follow all the guidelines as for Mass.

As guidance changes we will let you know and we hope that we can all stay safe and well when we gather to worship the Lord.

God Bless