



Notice about lifting of restrictions

27.1.2022

Dear Father,

My thanks to you and the volunteers in your parish who have worked so hard to ensure the safety of all parishioners since the beginning of the pandemic. As we come through the present stage of the pandemic the following statement has been received here in the diocesan office from the Taoiseach's office:

“Following Friday’s announcement by Government regarding lifting of restrictions, limits on capacity for all indoor and outdoor events will no longer apply.

We are aware however that some individuals, including the more vulnerable, may continue to have concerns regarding the pandemic and might be feeling some anxiety about re-engaging with others.

For this reason, it may be helpful for each Place of Worship/Community to implement a risk assessment to ascertain what they are comfortable with and what best suits their congregation as a result of the lifting of restrictions. Continuation of some protective measures may be preferred, for an interim period, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the vulnerable or anxious members of the congregation.”

In the light of this statement the following is proposed for consideration in the risk assessment:

1. Face coverings continue to be worn at church ceremonies.
2. Social distancing no longer applies in churches.
3. To omit the handshake of peace at the sign of peace.
4. Communion should continue to be received in the hand
5. Present guidelines for choirs and cantors remain in place.
6. Make available hand sanitising materials in the churches
7. Altar servers may return but with care and caution to ensure their safety – reduced numbers, minimum amount of serving.

Feast of St. Blaise:

It is possible to have the blessing of throats at a discreet distance from the person being blessed - without the candles being placed under the throat. Due care is important with the wearing of face coverings at all ceremonies.

Further guidance will be published over the coming weeks.
Wishing you and your communities safety and good health.

Yours sincerely,