

Diocesan Guidance for Reports to Parishes of COVID Diagnosis or Symptoms

Dear Fathers, Dear Deacons,

In response to individual requests, we offer this guidance for clergy and volunteers if the following concerns are shared with you:

If a person who has come to Mass/Church Service later tells a parish any of the following:

- a. they were in contact with a person who has Covid symptoms (whether or not they have had a Covid test)
- b. they were in contact with someone who has now tested positive for Covid
- c. they have themselves tested positive for Covid*

we advise the parish to take the action set out below:-

- a. contact everyone who attended the same Mass/Service and tell them what has happened, without mentioning names, and advise each person to
 - i. avoid contact with people at high increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus, such as people with pre-existing medical conditions
 - ii. take extra care in practising social distancing and good hygiene
 - iii. watch out for symptoms and self-isolate if they also show signs of coronavirus
- b. clean the church in accordance with the government guidelines at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

*Where a person who has come to Mass/Service later tests positive for Covid, then in addition to the above steps the parish should also:-

- a. let those who attended the same Mass know that they should expect to be contacted by the NHS test and trace service and
- b. provide that the NHS test and trace service with the contact details of all those who attended that Mass/Service

Further advice can be sought from Deacon Paul O'Connor and Clare O'Brien via email.

Canon Richard.