



## **WELCOME**

Hello and welcome to the parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs.

Welcome home!

I'm delighted that we're able once more to celebrate Sunday masses with a congregation.

Whether you've been coming here for decades or are thinking of joining us for the very first time, or the first time in a long time, we want you know how welcome you are and to experience God's blessing.

As with many things in the world at the moment, things are going to be a little bit different, at least for the foreseeable future.

I wanted to walk you through some of the changes to our space and our gatherings so that we can abide by the guidelines which are in place. We're doing this above all so that we can gather safely and reduce the risk for our parishioners and guests.

So, let's start at the very beginning – a very good place to start...

## **HOW DO I BOOK TO COME TO A SUNDAY MASS?**

Due to the distancing restrictions and the capacity of our churches, we simply cannot accommodate everyone who would normally come through our doors on a typical Sunday. In an effort to allow as many people as possible to return to Sunday mass, we are asking you to book in advance in order to reserve a place. Sadly, we cannot guarantee you a place unless you have booked. You can begin this whenever you feel comfortable returning to public spaces during the pandemic. When you've made these choices for yourself and, where appropriate for your family, please follow these steps...

Booking in is quick and easy to do. Simply go to our parish website – [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) – and scroll down the home page to find the mass you would like to attend in person. Click on the "book now" button next to the relevant mass. You will then be asked how many tickets you would like. Choose the number of people in your party, including children, and then click the "next" button. Then tick the box to confirm you have read the "terms and conditions" before clicking the "checkout" button. This will ask for your email address and postal address, and then your first and last name, as well as a contact telephone number. All of these will help with the NHS "track and trace" should it be required. If you wish, you can also let us know some further information – such as how you heard about the mass time – and then you can click the "book tickets" button.

You should see a confirmation of your booking on the screen, as well as instructions on how to download or print your ticket (this isn't necessary but will be helpful to stewards on the day if they

cannot find your booking). You should also receive an email from “ticket source”, confirming your booking. Please keep an eye on your “junk mail” folder, in case it ends up in there.

NB There is no charge for your ticket and you should not be asked for any card details.

If you don't have access to the internet, and don't have anyone else to book on your behalf, please phone the parish office on 01962 852804 and we will book a space for you, and anyone else attending with you. Please do not assume that a space has been booked for you until you have spoken to someone confirming that for you.

Please book one ticket for each person coming, including children. We are able to seat people from the same household together but we need to account for everyone in the church building and ensure there is sufficient space between people from different households.

Please let us know if you can no longer attend – we will cancel your ticket, leaving space for others to join us. **We only have limited capacity for each mass and stewards will have strict instructions not to let anyone else in once that capacity has been reached.** We would hate for you or others to be left disappointed unnecessarily.

Please also note the pre-booking only applies to Sunday masses, including the Saturday evening vigil mass, and not to weekday masses.

### ***ON THE DAY***

On the day of the mass, please make sure that neither you, nor anyone else attending with you, has any of the symptoms related to the Coronavirus, such as a persistent cough or flu-like symptoms. If you do, please do not come to mass in person that day, for the safety and well-being of others, and please cancel your booking.

If you have no symptoms, get ready to join us for mass. Please ensure you have used the bathroom before coming as we currently do not have facilities available for you to use on site. You will need to bring and a face covering and to wear that during the mass, except to receive Holy Communion. Sadly, we're unable to provide a mask for you.

When you arrive at St. Peter's church, please enter via the main door. If there is a queue to come in please ensure you keep 2m away from people of different households. There will be a steward to welcome you, to check that you have a booking, and to give you basic instructions as you enter the building. These volunteer stewards are there to help ensure the safety and well-being of everyone, so please be courteous and respectful, listening to and following their guidance. They will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As you enter, please use the hand sanitiser as a final precaution before you enter the main church building. A steward will then guide you, and anyone else from your party, to your seat. It is probable that you will not be seated in your usual space – this is to allow families to sit together and to ensure a 2m distance between people from different households.

You will notice a few changes to the seats. For example, some of the rows have been marked off in order to allow social distancing. There are also signs to remind us to keep 2m apart from other parties at all times. Please follow any signs and directions in place. The windows and doors will be kept open to allow ventilation. The Pastoral Centre will, unfortunately, remain closed for the foreseeable future. This means that there is no access to the toilet facilities. The nearest public toilets are on the other side of Jewry Street, next to the Discovery Centre.

The celebration of mass will also be a little different during this time. One of the most noticeable features will be the absence of congregational singing. This restriction is in place to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. We ask that all in attendance give praise, adoration and thanksgiving to God in the silence of their heart rather than by singing out loud. This may be a challenge for several of us, whose instinct is to sing at the appropriate parts of the mass. The restriction goes against what we would ordinarily be encouraging but it is necessary out of charity for others.

We've been thinking hard about how to have some sung music at one or two of our Sunday masses, without encouraging congregational singing. We need to choose music that people don't know, as the instinct for most of us is to join in when we recognise a familiar piece. We're going to begin by using only the antiphons for the mass – these texts are already integral parts of the mass and the style of chant used is highly recommended by the Church and has an ancient tradition. I'm hoping that using these antiphons will enable us to participate more fully by allowing the music and texts to reach down into our hearts and souls. For some of us, myself included, it will be a new thing to engage with music at mass in this way, but my prayer is that it will enable us to grow in our ability to participate by listening attentively to the voice of the Spirit speaking through these beautiful prayers.

You may join in with spoken responses during the mass. Please remember that physical postures and gestures, such as kneeling and praying with "open hands", can be non-vocal ways of expressing prayer.

There will be no collection during the preparation of the gifts. This will instead take place at the end of mass and baskets will be available near the entrance and exit for you to leave your offerings. The most effective and efficient way for you to make your contributions, however, if you are able, is electronically.

We have a page on our website explaining the many different ways you can support the Parish – [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/support](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/support). You can also make a financial donation directly to the parish bank account via bank transfer to: Account Name: PRCDTR St Peter & The Winchester Martyrs Account No: 00890996 Sort Code: 30-93- 04 Please reference 'Offerings' when making payment.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support for the mission of the parish at this time.

There will be no physical sign of peace during this period, except with those from our own household, but there will still be an opportunity to turn to our neighbour and smile and/or bow, saying "Peace be with you" as we do so.

During the distribution of communion, our team of stewards will invite people to come forward for communion, whilst leaving the necessary 2m between members from different households. The priest will distribute communion under one kind only, having cleansed his hands using sanitiser and put on a face mask. We ask you to receive Holy Communion only in the hand and not on the tongue, out of charity for the priest distributing Holy Communion and for others. If you insist that you need to receive on the tongue, we ask you please to come at the end of the communion line. Please come up for Holy Communion by the central aisle and return by the side aisle, according to where you are seated in the church. As always, if you are not intending to receive the Eucharist, please come forward for a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest will indicate this to the priest).

After the final blessing, you are asked to remain in place until a steward invites you to leave, following the arrows towards the exit doors on the north side of the church building. This will reduce congestion and help to promote social distancing.

Sadly, we are not able to have our usual social gatherings, such as tea and coffee, after mass at this time.

***FINAL WORDS***

Finally, thank you so much. We are hugely grateful for your continued support during these challenging times. Let's cooperate with these guidelines in order to reduce risk for everyone.

We're really looking forward to welcoming you here, when you're ready and feel comfortable doing so. Our livestream masses will also continue for those unable to join us in person.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us, via our website – [www.catholicwinchester.org.uk](http://www.catholicwinchester.org.uk) – via our facebook page - "St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs" - by email – [office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk) – or by phone – 01962 852804.

Please know that you're especially welcome if it's the first time, or the first time in a long time. Welcome home!