



BISHOP OF GALLOWAY

6th March 2020

My Dear People,

We are all concerned to minimise the risk of Coronavirus spreading through the population.

In Galloway Diocese we are following the guidelines issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Now that several cases of the Coronavirus have been diagnosed in Scotland the CBCEW instructions given for Stage 2 are now mandatory within the Diocese of Galloway.

A full list of these instructions can be found on the diocesan website and Facebook pages. But in particular I wish to point out:

That communion will no longer be available from the chalice and that all those receiving communion will receive on the hand only. There are some who for devotional reasons like to receive communion on the tongue, however this is unhygienic due to the risk of saliva being transferred on to the hands of the priest/Eucharistic minister and passed on to another communicant.

All ministers will wash their hands before distributing communion.

There should be no shaking of hands at the sign of peace.

Holy water stoups will be emptied.

Since the virus can be spread by touching objects that are contaminated, the collection plate will now no longer be passed from person to person and shared hymn books and Mass leaflets should not be used.

Door handles and furnishings that may be touched by others should be cleaned regularly with soap and water or sanitiser.

In church halls disposable cups and plates should be used to avoid multi-handling.

The celebration of Sunday Mass will be live streamed from St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, and St Teresa's, Dumfries, so that those who are self-isolating can participate in Mass.

There will be some inconvenience in implementing the above measures but the effort is worthwhile if it helps assure the good health of all.

With my prayers and good wishes,

b William Nolan
Bishop of Galloway

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