



# The Liturgy, Parish Events and Coronavirus: Steps for us to take...

## What is Coronavirus?

A Coronavirus, one of the family of viruses which caused the SARS (Serious Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in 2002-2003 across the world, though it is less severe than SARS. The virus is now called COVID-19. As a family of viruses, these viruses are fairly common, and can range from mild to very severe in effect.

Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Most people who get Coronavirus will have mild to moderate illness, a bit like 'flu. Latest Government information can be accessed at Coronavirus for the public: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

## Stage 1 - current status (very few cases, no cases in local community/parish)

- Use of universal good hygiene ('Catch it, Bin it, Kill it')
- Please Sanitise your hands with the gel provided at the back of church.
- Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitise their hands before administering Communion.
- For anyone with cold/flu symptoms to refrain from a physical sign of peace, receiving communion from the chalice, and to receive Holy Communion in the hand (i.e. not on the tongue).

## Stage 2 - If there are cases in the local community/parish...As above plus:

- Distribution of Holy Communion only in the hand, no reception from the chalice.
- No physical sign of peace.
- Holy water stoops to be removed.
- No passing of the collection bags/plates - donate at the door.
- Good Friday - no physical veneration of the Cross (i.e. touching/kiss).
- Cease use of shared hymn books & mass books.
- Regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with sanitiser (door handles etc).

## Stage 3 - Many cases in the local community/parish/nationally

In this unlikely event, then government guidance will be given, but the liturgy in public may be suspended along with any large public gatherings.

This note is not intended to alarm you, but is simply the current advice from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales so that we know what we must do, and we can be prepared as a parish should the spread of the virus increase.

Prayers, Canon Jonathan