



MARCVS

**DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPVS LOIDENSIS**

To our beloved brothers in Christ

**SUSPENSION OF THE SIGN OF PEACE AND THE
RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE AT MASS
TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION**

In response to the advice given by the Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales regarding the Covid-19 Coronavirus, and in order to reduce possible transmission, I am introducing the following special pastoral measures, effective from 10th March to 19th April 2020.

- (1) The sign of peace is to be suspended at Mass. In order not to create confusion in the minds of the lay faithful, I request that all clergy omit the invitation to offer the sign of peace, prior to the Agnus Dei.
- (2) Holy Communion from the chalice shall cease to be offered to the lay faithful. The practice of intinction is not to be introduced as an alternative.
- (3) Those who choose to receive Holy Communion on the tongue should be encouraged, whilst these special provisions are in place, to receive the Sacred Host on the hand instead. (Cf. (4) below) When administering Communion in the hand, the minister should ensure they place the Sacred Host in the hand of the communicant in such a way that they do not touch the communicant's hands.
- (4) Notwithstanding (3) above, if any of the faithful wish to exercise their right (Cf. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* §92) to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, they must not be refused. In these circumstances they should be advised to wait in their position in the church until the ministers have completed distribution of Holy Communion to communicants receiving in the hand and then, when invited by the presiding priest, to come forward to receive Holy Communion. When administering Communion on the tongue, the minister should ensure they place the Sacred Host on the tongue of the communicant in such a way that they do not touch the communicant's tongue.

- (5) Ministers should wash and also sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. Shared hand towels should not be used.
- (6) Holy water stoups in churches and chapels are to be emptied.
- (7) Churches and chapels that are open daily for private prayer should continue to remain open. Care should be given to ensuring that surfaces of high contact (e.g. light switches, door handles and areas around the door) are regularly sanitised throughout the day.
- (8) Shared hand towels should not be used in toilet areas or the sacristy.
- (9) Shared hymnbooks and Mass books should cease to be used. Single-use Mass sheets may be used; though these should be disposed-of immediately after use.
- (10) On Good Friday, the traditional 'Veneration of the Cross' is to be observed by those who process to the Cross by a simple genuflection. Those who are unable to genuflect should bow their head or make the sign of the cross.

Given at Leeds on the 9th March in the Year of Our Lord 2020



+ Marcus Stock

✠Right Reverend Marcus Stock
Bishop of Leeds

Sean Crawley

Rev Fr Sean Crawley
Notary