



Holy Communion to the Housebound by Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

A visit may be made to the housebound of the parish once government guidelines allow for the possibility. (As shielding is due to end on 1st August, parishes may receive requests for this.)

Each visit must be made individually from the Church, not from home to home, so that cleanliness is renewed for each visit.

The parish should ensure that all pyxes have been sterilised before the celebration of Holy Mass. The pyx with the unconsecrated host should be placed on the altar during Mass for consecration. The minister should receive the pyx at the end of Mass containing the consecrated host. The pyx should not be opened again until Communion is to be given in the home.

The minister should wear a face covering throughout the visit. On arrival in the home, the minister should wash his/her hands for a minimum of 20 seconds or apply sanitiser. They should place the pyx onto the prepared table which should be away from the sick person. The service should be short. It would be sufficient to pray the Our Father and invitation to Holy Communion- Behold the Lamb of God.....

During the service, the minister should remain at 2m distance from the sick or housebound person.

They should only approach the sick person to give them Holy Communion in the hand. They should then withdraw to 2m and place the pyx immediately into a sealable plastic bag.

They should wash their hands again before leaving the home or apply hand sanitiser, and when in their own home, they should sterilise the pyx by washing it in hot water with a neutral soap and drying it thoroughly.