



COMMUNAL WORSHIP TO CONTINUE DURING NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

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Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the evening of Monday 4 January, England has once again moved into a national lockdown.

However, churches will remain open for the celebration of Mass.

For up to date information about what is happening in the parishes and churches of the Diocese of Leeds please check with the individual parish websites which can be accessed via the on-line parish directory at: www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/directory-parishes/

In terms of Communal Worship and Life Events, the **following guidance** has been provided and may be updated when more information becomes available:

- You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony.
- You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship.
- Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances.

With the announcement of a new lockdown for England to curb the rapid spread of COVID-19, **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said:

The regular practice of our faith in God is a well-established source of both personal resilience and dedicated service to those in need.

Such resilience and enduring service are vital in these difficult circumstances.

I am glad that no measures have been introduced that would obstruct or curtail this essential source of energy for the common good. Catholic parishes will continue to serve the needs of their local community.