

**The Bishop of Carlisle**  
The Right Reverend James Newcome  
Bishop's House, Ambleside Road,  
Keswick CA12 4DD

To All Clergy and Chaplains in Carlisle Diocese

5 March 2020

Dear Colleague

Coronavirus and Communion

For answers to “frequently asked questions” about the coronavirus, please consult the Church of England website which is being regularly updated to reflect the latest medical advice.

Meanwhile, the key recommendations are these:

- Handwashing is essential, and vital for preventing the spread of the virus
- At present it is still permitted to administer the Chalice (though this advice may change according to circumstances)
- The wafer/bread should be given into each person's hand, not placed on their tongue
- Intinction (by president or recipient) should be avoided
- The Peace may be exchanged verbally rather than physically
- Contact with people who are self-isolating should be made by phone rather than pastoral visit, and visits to people in care homes or hospitals should only follow advice from staff on infection control.

We all have our part to play in maintaining calm and defusing any tendency to panic. However we also share a responsibility to prevent any unnecessary spread of the virus.

So this comes with my best wishes for your own health,

As ever

