

Holy Cross: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers (EEMs) are lay people who are authorised to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. At Holy Cross the role is confined to taking Holy Communion to the sick, elderly or housebound.

All EEMs at Holy Cross have been checked under the DBS vetting service and been trained by Monsignor Keith Mitchell. The diocesan requirement is that all EEMs must:

- Have reverence for the Eucharist;
- Have a clear understanding of the Eucharist as a sacrament of unity;
- Accept the Church's teaching on the Eucharist and the Mass;
- Be available to bring the Eucharist on a regular basis to those in need; and
- Be able to show courtesy and respect within the homes of other people.

They will visit any parishioner who is housebound and distribute Holy Communion once a fortnight. One EEM is allocated to the housebound parishioner so they can get to know each other better. If that EEM is away, we aim to arrange for another to take their place. Normally a priest will visit on alternate weeks.

Once the EEM has been allocated to the parishioner the procedure is:

- The EEM will contact the parishioner or their principal carer;
- The EEM will agree the day and time of visit;
- The day of visit:
 - The EEM goes to the church to collect the host;
 - The EEM attends the parishioner in their home;
 - Follows the appropriate rite for administration of Holy Communion prayerfully;
 - Will then spend time with the parishioner if that is wanted.
 - Make arrangements for the next visit.

Currently there are 4 EEMs who visit 7 parishioners. The rota is organised by John Troy.

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