

COMING TO MASS: COVID-19 SAFE ENVIRONMENT AT ST. ERCONWALD'S AS AT 18 MAY 2021

Current Situation

Following the easing of restrictions and the latest guidance from the Bishops this document sets out the current procedures being followed. Essentially we are able to reinstate parts of the liturgy but we still need to be able to control the number of people attending services, provide guidance as to the procedures to be followed in Church and know who has been present in case of any infection.

Those shielding or with symptoms should not attend church.

- **Stewards & Cleaners:** we still cannot operate without these: Please would those aged between 20 - 65 male or female and not in any of the vulnerable categories volunteer for these roles. We need people to assist at the two weekday Masses and at the Sunday Mass, including cleaning the church afterwards. We would like to increase the number of public Masses so please come forward if you will be able to volunteer on a regular basis. Please contact the Parish through email wembley3@rcdow.org.uk or phone on 020 8904 6031 [press option 2 when prompted], leaving your contact details ASAP. **Public Masses can only be celebrated if we have sufficient stewards and cleaners. If not, the Mass will be celebrated without congregation, which can happen at short notice so we are looking for a regular commitment.** So please, volunteer your time and help St. Erconwald's stay open and become even more open.
- **Obligation to attend Mass:** There is still no obligation to attend Mass at present.
- **Live Streaming of Mass:** We will continue to live stream Mass for there will still be people who cannot attend Mass.

Arrangements at Church

- **Capacity of the Church:** Maximum capacity of 33 parishioners in the church at one time, but this can rise to 56 by utilizing designated "household" or "couples" pews.
- **Social distancing** of 2 meters applies in church. You should also bear this in mind in the areas surrounding the building. Please adhere to the **yellow markings** in the Church grounds both entering and leaving Church.
- **Opening and closing:** the church will open **20 minutes** before weekday and Sunday Masses, and will be closed **5 minutes** after the end of Mass. There will be no Rosary after the Mass and no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until further notice. Doors will remain open for ventilation.
- **Once Mass has started there will be no further admittance.**
- **Toilets:** No use of the toilets as these are still high-risk areas.

- **"Crying Room" or Baby Changing Facilities** are closed.
- **Sacristans and altar servers:** We will have no sacristans and no altar servers. Please note that the sacristy will remain out of bounds.
- **Holy Water stoups** will continue to be dry, but small bottles are available [on request] for you to take home with you.
- **Hymnbooks and Mass books:** No hymnbooks, Mass books and other material not meant for single use.
- **Cleaning:** After each Mass or other opening the church will be closed and sanitised

Before You Come

- **Booking to come to Mass:** Use the ticketing system on our parish website to reserve a **place** for you or **places** for your household. If you would like to cancel the booking, please contact the parish office by phone or email. This is the link to make the booking: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/wembleyprestonroad/events/> If using this you will notice that when booking you are asked to register for a **place**. **One place** is equivalent to one person. However a household [4-5 people] can occupy a whole pew, in this instance please book **Two places** only. When booking please state your name and in brackets beside it [couple or household]. Please tick box if you want your contact details being passed on to the NHS in the event of a suspected case of Covid-19 at the parish.
- **Booking by phone if no internet available:** If you have no access to the internet you can call the parish office directly to secure spaces by ringing the office on 020 8904 6031 [press option 2 when prompted] and leave details [name and telephone number, number of places required - please state if booking for individual, couple or household [please speak clearly], and we will call you back to confirm the booking. In response to Government guidance and for your safety, we are asking for your contact details so that individuals can be notified in the event of any suspected Covid-19 case. Full details of the Privacy Notice can be found at www.rcdow.org.uk/privacy-policy.
- **Helping others to attend:** If you can come to Mass on weekdays, please be generous and refrain from coming to Sunday Mass so that those who are busy during the week can attend Mass too.

On Arrival

- **When not to come:** If you display "cold or flu like symptoms or have a loss of taste or smell" or demonstrate any other symptoms of COVID -19 you are asked not to enter the Church.
- **One way system:** There will continue to be a one-way system in the church. Entrance by the main doors on Carlton Avenue East. Exit by the back door via the Car park.

- **Read the instructions** from the diocese on the posters displayed in the porch. - Doors will remain open for ventilation.
- **No gloves** allowed.
- **Hand sanitisers:** Use the hand sanitisers provided or your own as you enter and leave.
- **Parish stewards** are here to help and direct you to your place. Be polite to them. They can ask you to leave the church if you do not comply with present government and diocesan regulations.
- **Face coverings** are mandatory in Church.
- **Donations and Collection money:** Please bring your **collection money** in an envelope and place in the box as you enter or leave. Please no coinage at this time. You can also use our automatic card readers at the entrance and exit.
- **Moving around:** Please do not move from one place to another in Church. Only touch what is necessary. **No touching** of statues or images please. Please read candle notice.

Participating in the Mass

- **No singing.** No offertory procession. No physical sign of peace.
- **Stand or sit:** Please stand or sit, **no kneeling** - Keep children with you at all times.
- **Readers:** The priest may ask people to read if there is someone who can undertake the task. Otherwise the priest will do the readings. If there is a reader they will be supplied with single-use gloves and should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning.
- **Homily:** The homily should be brief, to minimize the time that people are congregated in the Church building but is permitted .
- **Communion** under one kind only. After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God... Lord I am not worthy," the priest will hold up the Host to the Congregation and say audibly "The Body of Christ" to which the people should respond "Amen." In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, "The Blood of Christ" and again the people respond "Amen." The priest will receive Holy Communion under both kinds using his own Host and Chalice. The priest will distribute Holy Communion with the help of a Eucharistic Minister.
- **Spiritual Communion:** Before Communion is given to the congregation the "Spiritual Communion Prayer" is said for those who are following from home, or for some reason cannot receive Communion.
- **Receiving Communion:** For Communion: Please **stay** in your places. If wearing a mask please remove one side before communion. Communion is be given **silently** in the hand only, with the **communicant standing**, avoiding any physical contact. When the priest / EM approaches, communicant arms fully "out stretched" so

that there is a good distance between the priest/EM and the communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. Communicant receives **silently** and stands/sits to pray in thanksgiving after communion.

- **Votive candles:** If you wish to light candles at the statues of Ss. Therese, Erconwald and/or Anthony please do so before you are seated. Candles at all other shrines should be lit prior to leaving the Church. This will facilitate the one way system. Light only the candles which have already been placed in holders for your use, stewards will replenish candles as required. Please use the lighter which has been sanitised to light your candles. Do not hold candles in your hand as you may still have sanitiser residue on them, and this could lead to burns.

Leaving the Church

- **Exit** via the car park door. Please sanitise hands and keep social distancing in and around Church grounds.
- **Your belongings:** Ensure you take all your belongings with you after Mass.
- **Newsletter and other documents:** Take a copy of the Newsletter as you leave along with any other documents being distributed. Having touched any piece of paper do not put it back but take it with you. We have a "**leave no trace**" policy.

Despite all the restrictions let us be thankful that we can gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Let us rejoice and be glad.

Please do feel free to share the information in this guidance with other members of the parish with whom you have contact. Patience will still be required of all of us. We are in this together, let us help one another.

With prayerful best wishes. Keep safe.

Fr. Anthony