



Anglican Catholic Church



Diocese of the United Kingdom

Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

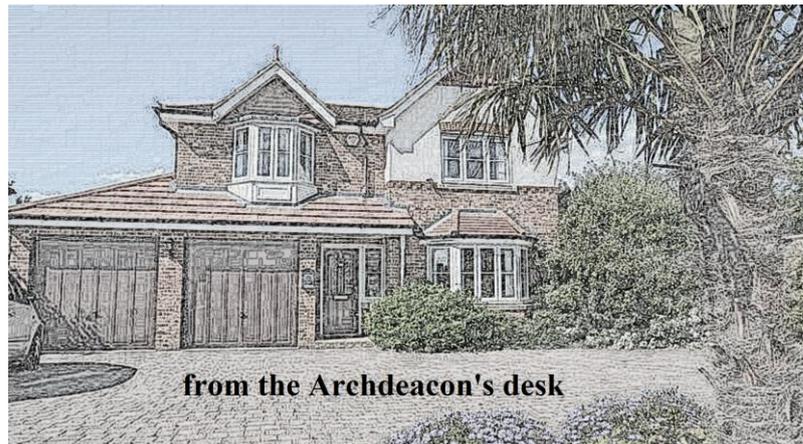
July 2020

My dear friends and colleagues,

The Bishop has requested that the following guidance be circulated in the light of recent Government relaxations of restrictions in the Covid-19 crisis.

For the past few months the entire Christian community, including our own, has been unable to worship together or receive the Sacraments for the longest period

in centuries. We are delighted and encouraged that as from 4 July we will once again be allowed to meet for public worship, but this does not, of course, mean that there will be no differences from the situation that existed before the pandemic began. Meeting together for worship will be subject to strict guidelines which will be in place for the protection and safety of everyone. We will notice differences in the conduct of services, and precautions must be adhered to. We are often small in number, but most of our places of worship are compact spaces, so this makes it ever more incumbent on us to adhere to the distancing rules as announced by the Government from time to time.



Where there has been a period of more than 72 hours between services or events there is no need to treat all surfaces with anti-viral sanitiser, but if that period is shorter then treatment must be carried out. There will be no holy water in the stoups as we enter church. We must not shake hands or make physical contact as we greet old friends, or welcome new ones. Hands should be sanitised on entering church and as we leave afterwards. Where possible the seating should be arranged in such a manner as to facilitate the recommended distance, or at least some marking should be made on chairs or pews to show that they are to be left vacant, unless there are members of the same household sitting together. When the Bishop is present he has suspended the usual reverence of a kiss to the Episcopal Ring.

The reception of the Blessed Sacrament will be in one kind only, remembering that each element of the consecrated species contains the whole of the divinity of Christ and is sufficient in itself, and the host will be placed onto the upturned palm of the communicant's right hand (which should be supported by the left hand unless a walking stick is being relied upon), and conveyed to the mouth in the palm of the hand. If a communicant is unable to

take solid matter the Precious Blood may be taken instead, but notification of this must be made to the priest before the service begins and special arrangements will be made. The communicant should not kneel at a rail, due to the risk of touching it after someone else has done so, but those receiving Holy Communion should form a distanced line and present themselves to the priest (at arms' length) standing in the centre between the rails. Communicants are advised to sanitise their hands before and after receiving the Sacrament.

Communal books or reading materials will not be available, and at present there is still a restriction against singing in church, due to the airborne particles which are produced and projected in greater number than by speech alone, so hymn books will not be used and responses will be said and not sung. Parish weekly news sheets may be made available, but must be taken away afterwards by the person who has received it and must not be returned to the table. If anyone needs to use a Mass book they must bring their own.

It is natural that there may be some people who will be apprehensive about being present at services, and this is perfectly understandable. There is no pressure applied to anyone who is anxious and fearful about beginning to once again attend public worship, or who may prefer to make a spiritual communion while others are receiving the Body of Christ physically.

There may be practical matters of concern to priests, and the Bishop or the Archdeacon will be happy to answer individual queries and give any necessary advice or guidance.

Your continued faithfulness and cooperation is much appreciated, and we pray for an eventual safe return to worship as we have known it.

With every blessing

Fr. Raymond Thompson

Archdeacon

