



Anglican Catholic Church



Diocese of the United Kingdom

Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

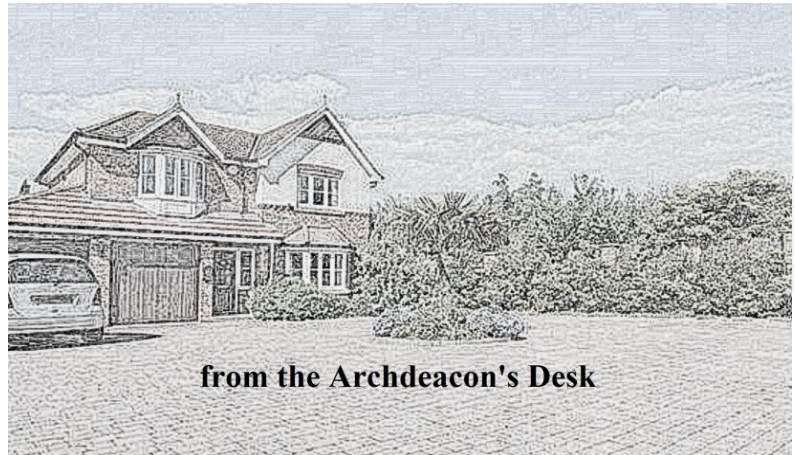
July 2021

*My dear friends and colleagues,*

The bishop has asked me to put together some guidance regarding the practices in church following the movement in Covid restrictions to level 4. The Church of England has published a comprehensive document which is very helpful:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/COVID%2019%20Guidance%20from%20the%2019th%20July%202021%20v1.0.pdf>

, although many of the provisions within it will not be relevant to our particular circumstances. The bishop wishes me to stress that Common Sense and erring on the side of caution are sensible practices.



**from the Archdeacon's Desk**

The main aspects concerning most of us are as follows:

#### Masks

Masks are not a requirement, and if any of our worshippers choose to continue to wear them as they think appropriate this will be a personal decision which should be respected – as with the decision not to.

#### Hymn Singing

Although it is conceivable that raised voices could increase the risk of transmission of the virus through aerosol particles, with a sensible approach hymn singing can resume.

#### Social Distancing

This is no longer necessary but, as with all things, members of congregations are free to do what is most comfortable for them.

#### Holy Communion

The usual (and preferred) practice of the ACC is for the reception of the Host upon the tongue. This may now resume, after temporarily changing to reception in the hand in accordance with government and ecclesiastical regulations.

Likewise, the chalice will be available to those who wish to receive Holy Communion in both kinds. There is no obligation to partake of the chalice, and, as is age-old custom and teaching, a communicant may receive in one kind only and still be assured of receiving the body and blood of Christ in all its fullness.

### Vaccine Status

It is neither required nor appropriate to ask other worshippers about their status. The QR code for NHS Track and Trace may still be available for those who wish to use it, but there is no obligation to display or use it.

### Holy Stoup

Holy water may once again be placed by doors for worshippers to use if they so wish.

### Hand Sanitiser

We suggest that it is good practice for hand sanitiser to still be available and used.

### The Apostolic Ring

The customary reverence of the Apostolic succession of bishops by the touching of the lips upon the Episcopal ring may once again be observed and is encouraged. This is, as has been explained, a sign of humility for both the person who reverences in this way and for the bishop, for whom it serves as a reminder of the grave responsibilities of the inheritance of his office. However, if “kissing” the ring is not something individuals feel comfortable with, touching their forehead to the ring, is acceptable.

### Feeling ill?

As always good hygiene and common courtesy to our neighbours and brothers and sisters is paramount. If you feel ill or display symptoms, please consider those with whom you may come into contact. Staying away from Mass if you are ill with something that is easily passed on, such as Covid-19, is perfectly acceptable.

It is up to us all to keep ourselves and each other safe and if anyone has anxieties about abandoning the practices of the last 16 months, and wishes to continue in them until they feel more confident, their views are respected.

With every blessing

*Fr. Raymond Thompson*

Archdeacon

