

## UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR OPENING THE CHURCH FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

1. The **OBLIGATION** to attend Mass on Sunday is still **SUSPENDED** (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
2. Attending any weekday Mass is **SUFFICIENT** at the moment (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
3. Mass offering and/or donation, including the planned giving envelopes can be submitted either on a Sunday or during any of the weekday Masses. **Online offering/donation** is **preferable**, especially through **Standing Order**.
4. **WE HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THE PREVIOUS NORMAL WAY OF DOING THINGS BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**
5. Please do **NOT** come to the church **if you feel unwell**.
6. **Tickets** are available on the parish website. Tickets will admit you to the church for the celebration of the Holy Mass.
7. Given the change to **1m plus** social distancing rule in the church, wearing of face covering is **MANDATORY**.
8. Please use the **hand sanitiser** as you enter the church.
9. The **Entrance** and **Exit** doors are clearly marked. Please **obey** every instruction, and **do not argue** with the Stewards/Ushers.
10. **SINGING** in the church is **SUSPENDED** until further notice.
11. **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL** is **SUSPENDED** until further notice (Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
12. Holy Communion will be distributed in **SILENCE** with no dialogue between the minister and communicant (CBCEW).
13. Only **THREE** Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will help to distribute Holy Communion during each weekend Mass. Weekday Mass is only **ONE** person.
14. The Priest and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist **MUST WEAR FACE COVERING** during distribution of the Holy Communion.
15. Weekend Masses: **Saturday** 6.15pm; **Sunday** 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon and 6pm.
16. Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 9am and 6pm (except on Friday 7pm).
17. Church doors will open at 8.30am daily, and close after each Mass.
18. Church doors will open again at 5.30pm daily for evening Masses and private prayers, and close immediately after the 6.00pm or 6.15pm (Saturday) Mass.
19. The church will be **thoroughly cleaned** after each Mass. We will need the goodwill and cooperation of parishioners to achieve this goal.
20. Please do not leave any **used parish newsletter** or **printed materials** in the church after Mass. Kindly take it home.

21. **Ushers/Stewards** will be provided with **PPE** for their personal safety (if they do not have private ones to use).
22. Please **leave the church at the end of each Mass** in order to enable the Stewards to thoroughly clean the church. You are **encouraged to return home** and not remain in the church premises after Mass.
23. Only the **Priests, Sacristans, Altar Servers, designated Ushers/Stewards and Parish Administrator** are **allowed in the Sacristy**, until further notice.
24. Only **THREE** Altar Servers will be required for each Mass for now.
25. Altar Servers **must wear face coverings** while in the Sanctuary.
26. Only the **Priests** will have access to the **Tabernacle** until further notice.
27. Readers/Lectors will be supplied with **single-use hand gloves**. They should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from turning the page (CBCEW).
28. Readers/Lectors will **no longer be part of the procession** for the Mass until further notice.
29. Only **one** Reader/Lector will be assigned to proclaim the Word of God at each Mass.
30. Readers/Lectors may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it.
31. There should be no sharing of the collection plate or bag during Mass. **Collection boxes will be placed at the entrance and exit of the church** – to be overseen by Stewards/Ushers.
32. The maximum capacity our church could accommodate given the 1m plus social distancing rule is **220**.
33. Members of the **same family/household** can sit together in a pew without observing the 1m plus social distancing rule.
34. A Steward/Usher will be in front of the church entrance door to stop further entry immediately the maximum capacity of the church is reached.
35. Resumption of **Ethnic Chaplaincy Masses is delayed** until further notice.
36. Maximum number of participants during **Baptism is 6, Wedding is 15**, and **Funeral** ceremonies in the church is **30** (CBCEW).
37. Distribution of **Stickers** during weekend Masses is suspended until further notice.

**Thank you very much for your cooperation!**

**Fr Austin Nwosu, CSSp.**

**Parish Priest**