

The Proposal for the Opening of the Church (Adopting the Guidelines stipulated to our needs of the parish)

We are not yet risk free. Hence you will be coming to church and attending the services with a sense of risk. But we hope and shall do all that is sensibly possible to be safe. Yet, there is a risk.

Like in many things we may want to do today, there will be a risk. Even going to the supermarket doing your shopping. But here in this situation attending services is slightly different to getting into a supermarket, as we are not in private prayer (like privately shopping), but now it will be collectively worshipping. We will be saying prayers together and will be with the same number of people at a closed place for a while in almost the same setting. So there are added risks and concerns. Please do take care.

It is mandatory that you wear face covering within the Church. The Priest, children & those with breathing difficulty are exempted but mandatory that they maintain two meters distance rule, coming to contact with any other than of their household. Therefore, children must always confine to the family within the church, and families with children as a good practice, best maintain two meters, in coming to contact with others within the Church please.

No shaking hands or hugs or any expression of physical sharing of peace within the church.

It is best practice that you minimise talking, chatting within the church with householders or otherwise. Certainly, avoid talking loudly or shouting as this can contaminate the surrounding. Please note face coverings must not be taken off unless for an urgency.

Number of people that could attend at a given time:

Given our set up of the churches which have only one isle:

St Thomas More's - 11 individuals or households (household with not more than 6 people). Similarly, St Hugh's – 9 individuals or households. In both churches it will be the main nave that will be in use until we come to grips of the need and the situation.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be only in one kind – the Host only, and on the hand only with widely outstretched hands. The priest will wear a face covering at this point, sanitise his hands and then open the ciborium with consecrated hosts for your safety in giving you the Holy Communion on the hand – with no

physical contact with the receiver.

We shall follow the second method as given in the guidelines. That is, communion given only at the end after the final blessing. Once the priest is ready he will invite you, one by one, give communion on the hand and then you consume the host within the purview of the priest. You may say your short private prayer standing before the altar (there is no rush, you can take your time) and then leave straight out of the church as directed. Please avoid touching anything or stopping by within the Church, as it will hold up any other person next receiving communion. Priest will wait until you leave to invite the next person to come up and receive communion.

Your offerings

I have been imagining a virtual basket sent around during our zoom masses, never got around though it was the topmost priority! may be another time! There will be a physical collection basket left at the entrances and exits of the church if you may so wish to put your offerings for the church. Most welcome to do so.

Altar servers, sacristans, or the use of sacristy

We shall have no altar servers, sacristans, or the use of sacristy please for now by anyone else other than the priest. I shall call on the assistance of the sacristans and others as is needed at different times, giving priority to safety of all.

Readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

As our numbers are pretty small to begin with, we shall continue first as we have done with our zoom readers and so our zoom masses will continue. I will look at ways to integrate it as we go along and look at the best options. Until we settle, I suggest those who come to mass to simply participate in the mass and have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion while others will continue to be in Spiritual Communion. This is suggested to stop people going up and down to the altar and the use of the microphone etc.

Number of Masses held – You may attend any mass during the week at the times we have always had. There will be one mass every day. As there is no Sunday Obligation it is best if we distribute ourselves over the masses during the weeks and months.

Private Prayer and communion outside mass

Soon after mass the benches and the surroundings will be cleaned by those volunteering. I intend to continue with the time for private prayer as was introduced at the first step of the opening of the churches. That is an hour each day after mass. You are most welcome to come for private prayer at those times as we have had and given in the newsletter. You can also request for holy communion and I will be happy to do so with a short private prayer.

In addition, as with private prayer, Anyone who wishes to have the sacrament (Holy Eucharist) please let me know your convenience and I will be more than happy to avail myself and to administer the sacrament safely to you as stipulated in the guidelines even without mass. (The guidelines do not stipulate this provision, and so I am envisaging this is possible. But if it is no allowed, I will stop giving communion without mass).

Times of masses

Saturday, 4th July, Days mass at 11–Woodstock – With people & Zoomed

Sunday, 5th July, Sunday Mass at 11 – Kidlington - With people & Zoomed

Monday zoom mass only at 11am

Tuesday - With People & Zoomed Kidlington

Wednesday - With People & Zoomed Woodstock

Thursday – With People & Zoomed Kidlington

Friday zoom mass only at 11am

Who attends the masses:

As numbers are obviously limited, it will be based on invitations restricted to the spaces that are available.

I would like to first invite those who have not been able to use the zoom masses to give their first refusals. So please do let them know that they could leave a message or drop a note, or you could let me know whether they would like to attend mass and receive communion. I shall give priority to them. Besides, I will also be happy to bring communion to them – the home bound, to their homes following strict safety guidelines.

Others could leave a message or drop an email, requesting wanting to attend mass in the church. I presume they are all registered in the parish and so I have some form of contact, if not please do leave your contact details too.

Helpers and cleaners

I hope that at every mass each day I would have people attending mass and of them there would also be two people helping in the ushering. This will be decided with the invitations sent to attend mass. But please note that you would need to let me know first which masses you would like to attend and then I shall send you an invitation and then also asking you if needed to be a helper cleaner etc.

I shall also get the church cleaned as required by the guidelines depending on the demand. The parish cleaning teams are already in standby to respond as requested. Our unreserved thank to them. Some have already been at work at various levels. Thank you all.

Again, if you wish to be of help and support do not hesitate put yourself forward and let me know.

PPE is already in place for all those helping and cleaning.

I shall give the necessary instructions to those who are helping and cleaning. Please follow them through diligently.

Ask your questions and raise your concerns

Once you have read the guidelines as given and made available on the parish website and these adaptations to our situation in the parish, please do ask any questions, clarifications you have. Raise any omissions or negligence I am bound to make with this hasty writeup.

Once you have read through these documentations, you can ask your questions after mass on Sunday or any other day. You can email, phone, leave a message, drop a note or ask for a zoom session. I will be more than happy to do so.

Thank you for all you support and understanding. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any doubts or questions. Obviously, I have not paid attention to some details, please do raise them, and debug them!!