

ADDENDUM TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN RESPECT OF OPENING CHURCHES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

Preamble

All the existing documentation in respect of 'Opening for Private Prayer' remains in force until changed by new government regulation. Social distancing is now 1 metre plus ... which means that if 2 metres is not practical to implement, one metre minimum distancing must be strengthened by extra safety measures such as face coverings or masks and the strategic placing of persons in confined spaces. The following texts, with the existing protocols, constitute the Metropolitan's updated instruction for parishes that feel able to open the church safely for services.

First Advice from the Metropolitan

The Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers of our God-protected Archdiocese,
Grace and peace be unto you all.

I hope and pray that you are all in good health, especially spiritually.

Today the Prime Minister announced the reopening of churches from 4th July; you can read the announcement in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-on-covid-19-23-june-2020>

Please bear in mind:

1. You don't have to open the church on this date. The new regulations **allow churches to open if they decide to do so**.
2. You may wish to open for attended services; **you must not do so before 4th July**, the legal date.
3. While we are all waiting at this time for detailed government guidance, parishes that do wish to open should be making preparations based on the existing Archdiocesan Public Hygiene Policies.
4. **For singing or chanting** in the services, it is good to install a sound system with radio microphones where possible. Or to do something, especially in small churches, to make the chanter far away from the parishioners.
5. The priests should control the number of parishioners who will come to the service depending on the church size to keep socially distanced.
6. For the distribution of Communion, you are to follow my previous instructions, emailed on 1st June, on how the faithful are to receive Communion. In particular:
 - a. Use one spoon.
 - b. When administering Communion, the communicant should open his or her mouth wide and the priest should drop the Holy Gifts into the mouth by inverting the spoon. This, of course, is a common practice in many places. The spoon should not touch the inside of the communicant's mouth or lips.

With paternal love, I remain yours in Christ,

+Silouan

Metropolitan of the British Isles and Ireland

Second Advice from the Metropolitan

Thanks to all of you, especially to whom had sent me a private email.

I would add to my preview email:

* For singing or chanting: There must be no singing or chanting in the services, especially in small churches. Everything must be said in a conversational voice. In larger churches, this will mean the installation of a sound system or to put the chanter away from parishioners.

* Keep The toilet closed.

Your prayers
+ Silouan