

# A Guide for Celebrants for the Holy Eucharist During the COVID-19 Pandemic

October 2021 – Green Zone

*Alongside the basic measures in place for congregational worship, the following government protocols apply to celebrants at the Holy Eucharist and officiants at the distribution of Reserved Sacrament.*

- **Only the presiding priest** will be present at the altar and will alone distribute holy communion.
- The presiding priest will **sanitize their hands** immediately prior to the prayer over the gifts, immediately prior to the distribution of holy communion, and again immediately following the distribution of holy communion. Therefore, a separate hand sanitizer should be available to the presider.
- After moving into place for the prayer over the gifts and the eucharistic prayer, the presiding priest **may remove their mask**. The **mask must be replaced** before the distribution of holy communion.
- Both **bread and wine** will be consecrated by the presiding priest. They will consecrate a priest's host and a small amount of wine in the chalice, which they alone will both consume in their entirety before proceeding to the distribution of communion to the congregation.
- At the preparation of the gifts, **individual wafers** for members of the congregation will be placed on the corporal in a covered ciborium or on a paten covered with a purificator (or other suitable cloth).
- **Only consecrated wafers of bread** will be offered to the congregation. Communion "in one kind" is recognized as a full participation in the eucharist, and is a temporary measure until the normative Anglican practice of sharing the common cup can be safely restored.
- At the distribution of Communion:
  - **Communicants remain in their seats** to receive.
  - After the presiding priest issues the invitation to communion from the altar, they say, "The body of Christ," to which the congregation responds, "Amen." After sanitizing their hands the presiding priest, **wearing a mask, takes the consecrated wafers individually to each communicant at their seat**. Those wishing to receive communion should stand in their place with their hands outstretched.
  - The masked presiding priest will silently **place the wafer of bread into the communicant's outstretched hand**, making every effort to avoid physical contact. If the presider inadvertently touches a communicant, they will pause, place the wafers on the altar, sanitize their hands again, and resume the distribution of communion.
  - If an individual wishes to receive **a blessing instead of communion**, they should indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest. The priest will bless them without physical contact.
- When holy communion is being distributed from **the reserved sacrament**, the same protocols apply as for a full celebration of the eucharist. Therefore only consecrated wafers of bread will be distributed, and they should remain in the tabernacle or aumbry until the prayer normally said before their distribution is offered by the presiding deacon or lay reader.