

A Guide to In-Person Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Revised September 2021 – Green Zone

The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly shifted the way in which we worship. To ensure safety for in-person worship, we ask you to familiarize yourself with the following protocols.

Government Safety Protocols

- **When entering the church**, please ensure that you sanitize your hands. Please also **provide your name and telephone number** for contact tracing.
- In a Green Zone, a **maximum capacity** of 250 worshippers (if able to physically distance) may gather at the church. For churches in the Regional Ministry, this number is significantly smaller, given the sizes of our churches and social distancing. For instance, the maximum for St George, Lennoxville is 40 people.
- Please keep a minimum distance of **2 metres** from others and avoid physical contact. Although this distance has been reduced to 1 metre in most circumstances, when there is singing involved it increases to 2 metres again.
- **Masks must be worn**, unless receiving Communion or conducting a reading from a place adequately distanced from the congregation, and may be removed when seated so long as speaking is kept to a minimum.
- The floor is marked to indicate the flow of foot traffic. Pews are also marked to indicate **socially distanced seating**.
- There is **no sharing of orders of service handouts** or any books you may have brought from home.
- After the service, please ensure that you **take any handouts home with you**, as they must not be left in the church.
- If you use a **tissue**, please dispose of it in a lidded trash can.
- **At the end of the service**, we will exit the church by the main doors in an orderly manner.
- In order to prevent the clergy from being vectors of infection, there will be **no greeting or receiving lines** after the service. As always, Fr Edward and Fr Giuseppe are available by phone or e-mail for any pastoral concerns you may have. We will also have **no coffee hour at this time**.
- Of course, if you have **any symptoms of COVID-19**, please remain at home.

Liturgical Notes

- **Congregational singing** is permitted, but masks must be worn.
- We will **refrain from sharing the peace** with one another.

- **An offering plate** is available, but it will not be distributed. If you did not place your offering in the plate at the beginning of the service, we ask that you do so safely on your way out.

- Protocols for **the Eucharist**:
 - **Altar guilds** should prepare for the Eucharist 24 hours in advance of the service.
 - **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.
 - 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.
 - 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.