

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

Revised December 2021

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. Everyone wishing to attend a service will need to present proof that they are adequately vaccinated or exempt from vaccination.
- Other than weddings and funerals, a **maximum capacity** of 50%, up to 250 worshippers may gather at the church (if able to physically distance). For churches in the Regional Ministry, this number is significantly smaller, given the sizes of our buildings and social distancing. For instance, the maximum for St George, Lennoxville is 40 people.
- Please keep a minimum distance of **1 metre** from members of other households and avoid physical contact.
- **Masks must be worn by everyone at all times**, except when receiving the eucharist. Readers, preachers, and presiders may also remove their masks while speaking, so long as they are at least two metres from the congregation.
- 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**, please 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.
- It is recommended that **fellowship hour** after a service be suspended until the overall situation improves. However, if such gatherings do take place, a maximum of 10 people may participate. Food and beverages may only be shared if they are served to individuals at their seat and/or they are prepared in a self-contained box or wrapper ahead of 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. Choirs and soloists may sing unmasked if the members are 2 metres apart from one another and at least 2 metres away from the congregation.
- 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.