

## REOPENING OF CHURCHES FOR MASS WITH A CONGREGATION OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH

The Government has announced that from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020, communal acts of worship will be allowed in our Catholic Churches, under strict guidelines of oversight, hygiene, and social distancing.

At Our Lady of the Rosary, this is the public Mass schedule, based on the number of volunteers available to steward and clean the church.

We still need more volunteers - ***Please contact the Parish Office if you can help steward or clean after any Mass (indicating the day(s) you could help)*** and keep an eye on the Parish website for the latest information on opening times.

Saturday (Sunday vigil Mass) – 6pm

Sunday – 8am & 10am

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays – 9.30am

*To book a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office.*

Please **DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH**  
if you, or someone in your house has:  
**a high temperature**

OR

**a new, continuous cough**

OR

**a loss of, or a change in, your normal sense of taste or smell**

At all times, please follow the guidance of our Stewards volunteers and continue to follow the Government Guidance:



## **Before the Mass**

1. Fr Gregory and the steward volunteers will ensure that all precautions in preparing for the Mass – as per the latest Guidance – have been observed.
2. Only Fr Gregory to enter the Sacristy at all times.
3. The **Church will be opened 15minutes before every Mass**. If you arrive earlier, please do not congregate at the door. Observe social distancing at all times, from arrival to exit.
4. At least 2 stewards to be present every time the church is open.
  - Please ensure you **follow the Stewards’ instructions at all times**. They are volunteering to help mitigate any risks to you and our Parish.
  - **Guidance requests for cooperation with ‘Test and Trace’** – Parishes have been asked to create an accurate temporary record of those who attend Mass in church from the 4<sup>th</sup> July. The record should include: name of the person/household group and a suitable method for Test and Trace staff to make contact i.e. a mobile phone number, email address, other phone number or postal address.
  - This record needs **to be collected as people enter the church for Mass and retained securely for 21 days**. For this purpose, we ask you to bring the following pre-filled card to mass, to hand in to the steward at the entrance. If not possible, you will be asked to provide the steward the relevant details **before** entering the church.

<b>NHS TEST AND TRACE</b> <i>“To manage the risk of the virus re-emerging.”</i> <i>Attending public worship in the Archdiocese of Southwark</i>	
Name:	
Contact: <i>(mobile number, email, other phone number, postal address)</i>	
DATE:	TIME OF MASS:
<small><i>This information is being collected at the direction of the UK Government. It will be kept secure and will be destroyed 21 days after the act of public worship.</i></small>	

## **Social Distancing – IMPORTANT**

*Please remember that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. We ask our parishioners to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Given that there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider your personal risk to the virus and the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This may ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people. This step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going ‘back to normal.’*

*For a while, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person, who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness. You can find in our Parish website details of live-streaming Masses and other resources to continue to pray at home.*

5. Due to social distancing measures, the number of people allowed into our church for Mass will be significantly reduced and will be allocated by the stewards on a **first come first served basis**, with no one allowed to enter over this number.
  
6. **The maximum safe operating capacity** of Our Lady of the Rosary church, based on social distancing guidelines, is of **20 people/households within the church**, with the **possibility of up to an extra 12 individuals in the Annexe**, which will be open for use as and when required. The number and position within the church of people attending at any one time will be overseen by volunteer stewards. These numbers are calculated according to:
  - A 2m social distancing seating plan, where possible, or at a minimum, a 1m + social distancing seating plan. This means that there must be at least 1m in all directions between each person/household at all times; To achieve this, parishioners will be guided by the stewards to seat at either end of each pew. Please follow instructions and do NOT seat in the middle of the pew.
  - Everyone in the congregation **MUST wear a suitable face covering**.
  
7. You will be asked to **sanitise your hands upon entry** to the church.

### ***During Mass***

*When returning to Mass, there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. None of this should detract from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.*

1. There will be **no communal singing** until further instruction - all hymnbooks, missals and other published material normally used by the congregation have been removed from the church. The Holy Water stoup is dry.
2. Any homily will be brief, to minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building and there will be **no prayers of the faithful or communal exchange of the sign of peace**.
3. All requirements concerning the preparation of the vessels, altar bread, wine, and lavabo – as outlined in the *Guidance* – will be performed by Fr Gregory alone and will be ready on the altar before Mass begins. There will be **no offertory procession of the gifts** of bread and wine to the altar.
4. Fr Gregory will remain socially distant on the sanctuary during the celebration of Mass, with **no servers or readers required at this point**.
5. There will be no sharing of the collection plate. We would like to thank all our parishioners who have continued to support our parish during lockdown by making their **donations online or via standing order**. We would encourage everyone who possibly can, to make their offerings in this way, to avoid the potential of cross

contamination. Details on how to set up a standing order are available in the Parish website – ‘**Support the parish**’ tab. A plate will be placed at the exit of the church, should you still wish to make a cash offering.

6. **Distribution of Holy Communion** – People **should wait in their pews**. To avoid the congregation moving and queuing in church, Fr Gregory will give communion to people in their pews. Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. Especial care should be taken by people in unlooping their face covering for the reception of Holy Communion and replacing the covering afterwards. This is to prevent contamination of the covering by the hands.
7. Parishioners are reminded to **sanitise their hands when exiting the church** and **not to gather after Mass**.
8. The church will be closed after the Mass has finished in order to **clean** the space according to the Guidelines. Please let a Steward know if you would be willing to help with cleaning after Mass.

**Please note –**

**Toilets will remain closed.**

In case of emergency, please use the Disabled toilet and you **MUST inform a steward** before leaving the church, so that it can be disinfected after use.

The Catholic Church, along with other groups, has been given the opportunity to resume limited public worship in advance of some other activities and it is important that we demonstrate our seriousness by cooperating to the best of our ability with all that the Government is asking of us.

For the benefit of everyone, we will do all we can to ‘*control the virus and save lives.*’  
Thank you for playing your part.