



## The Parishes of St Theresa of Lisieux (Southwick with Portslade) and St George (Hangleton with West Blatchington)

 [www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk](http://www.brightondeanerywest.org.uk)

### Introduction

We are so pleased that we are now permitted to celebrate public Masses once again. Coming together for this act of worship and thanksgiving is central to our faith. However, the pandemic is still with us, and great caution is needed. It is not 'back to normal' and we are opening up in small stages.

### Coming to Mass

The Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended and nobody should feel any concern about not coming to Mass at present. Some people shouldn't come: if you have underlying health conditions or are over 70, please consider carefully whether it is right for you to come.

Obviously, if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or have been asked to self-isolate, you **must** stay at home.

Numbers will be limited to ensure everyone can maintain the appropriate distance. To manage the smaller number of people who can be in our churches at any one time, we are operating a booking system – more information about this on the next page.

### What can I expect?

Every person who comes to our churches at this time will be asked to do several things that promote good hygiene and help each other to keep safe.

- Entry to St Theresa's will be through the double doors at the south end. Exit will be via the two side doors at the same end. The door on the east side will be open for anyone who has mobility problems.
- Entry to St George's will be through the usual street doors to the church. Mass will be in the hall, at least for the first few occasions. Exit will be via the emergency exits at the side of the hall and then via the side gate. The hall lobby area will be the 'sacristy' area, for use only by Fr Alistair.
- Please use the hand sanitiser when you come into church and when you leave.
- Once you have chosen your seat you must stay in that place.
- Please respect the 2m social distancing at all times in and around the premises (arriving, leaving, and Holy Communion).
- Everyone is advised to wear a face covering; from 8 August you will be legally required to do so.
- Doors will be kept open for ventilation – yes, even if there is a cool breeze!
- The toilet will not be available for use.

There will be stewards to guide you. Please follow their directions.

There will be some changes to the liturgy to reduce the time people are together, and to minimise contact between people and things. There won't be any Prayer of the Faithful, or Sign of Peace, or communal singing, and there won't be the opportunity to receive from the chalice.

At the time for Holy Communion, there will be a general acclamation of the Lord's presence. The priest will raise the Host and say *The Body of Christ* to which everyone responds, *Amen!* And the same with the chalice: *The Blood of Christ – Amen!* Then, when people come up to receive Holy Communion, there will be no individual dialogue between priest and communicant.

The congregation will receive Holy Communion *after* the final prayer and blessing. Stewards will invite each row in turn to come forward. Please extend your hands out as far as you can to receive Communion in the hand. After you have received Holy Communion, you should leave straight away. Remember to take any bags etc. with you when you go forward for Communion.

Much as we would like to be able to stay and chat with each other, we shouldn't be doing so at present. Fr Alistair will not meet with parishioners after Mass; if you need to speak with him, please ring the Parish Office.

### How do I book?

For now, you need to have a confirmed seat before you come to Mass. Unfortunately, we shan't be able to admit people without a booking. This is not how we would want to operate but is necessary at present.

Mass times are as before: St Theresa's at 9:30 am and St George's at 11 am. You may attend either Mass, subject to having received confirmation of your booking.

The best way to book, and easiest for us, is to send an email to [brightondeanerywest@gmail.com](mailto:brightondeanerywest@gmail.com) (not the usual Parish Office address), giving your name and telephone number, the number of people from your household/bubble who wish to attend Mass, and the Mass which you wish to attend. If you do not have email, then ring the Parish Office and leave a message. Please let us know by the *end of Thursday* for the following Sunday's Mass.

We will contact everybody who has been allocated a seat. If you don't receive confirmation, then your name will be carried forward to the following Sunday, when you will get priority over newer bookings.

### How can I help?

You will be a great help to everyone by following the guidelines set out here, and by remembering good hygiene and social distancing.

The church/hall will be open 15 minutes prior to Mass time. Please come in time for your name to be checked and to sanitise your hands before Mass. You will not be admitted after Mass has started.

Please contact the Pastoral Team at [brightondeanerywest@gmail.com](mailto:brightondeanerywest@gmail.com) if you are willing to help steward.

### Other questions

- *Can children come?*  
Of course, they will be very welcome! Please explain to them in advance that things will be different from usual and how important it is that they keep close to you at all times.
- *Can we light candles?*  
For now, the votive candles are not available.
- *What about the offertory collection? Surely the parish still needs the money!*  
We'd be really grateful if people would set up standing orders. There is information about this on the parish website. However, there will also be collection boxes at the door as you arrive at church.
- *Will there be newsletters?*  
No, not yet. For the readings, bring a missal if you have one, or you could use Universalis on your phone.
- *Will parking be as usual?*  
At St Theresa's, there must be no parking along the eastern side of the church, to allow people with mobility issues to be dropped off at the side door (and for emergency vehicles, which we hope will not be required.) Drivers who have dropped off a passenger should drive around the back of the church to park and should not reverse back the way they came in.
- *Can I have a lift to church?*  
At present, parishioners should not give lifts to people outside their own household.
- *Will there be weekday Masses?*  
To start with, there will only be Sunday Masses.
- *For how long will these arrangements be in place?*  
We really don't know! It is likely that the situation will evolve and we will adjust things based on what happens with Covid-19 cases, on government and diocesan guidance and on our own experience.