



## 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)

### COMING TO MASS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

It's good news that the number of cases of COVID-19 has decreased considerably, thanks to the lockdown and to vaccinations. This means that many restrictions have been eased. But coming to church is still different from pre-pandemic times. This document explains more.

#### Masses times

- There are three weekend Masses each week: on Saturday at 5:30 pm at St Theresa's (vigil Mass) and on Sunday at 9:30 am at St Theresa's and at 11 am at St George's.
- Booking a place for Mass is not required but the number of places available is still limited to allow for social distancing. Places will be allocated on a first-come basis.
- At present there are only occasional weekday Masses. Details are posted on the website.

#### Arriving at church

- The church will be open once the stewards are ready to welcome you. This will be at least fifteen minutes before Mass is due to start.
- Wear a face-covering, as required by law, unless you are exempt.
- Scan the NHS QR code which is displayed at the entrance or give your name and contact details to the steward at the door. Names are kept for 21 days in case they are needed for Test and Trace.
- Have your offertory gift ready to put in the collection basket at the door. There is no collection during Mass. (You may find a standing order is more convenient – see the website for details.)
- Sanitise your hands
- Arrive at least five minutes before Mass starts. Once Mass has started you will not be admitted.

*Entry to St Theresa's is through the double doors at the south end. The door on the east side will be open for anyone who has mobility problems.*

#### In the church

- The pews, which were temporarily replaced by chairs to make social distancing easier, are to be put back soon, with social distancing of '1 metre plus'.
- Votive candles will be available soon.
- Please follow the steward's directions. Once you have sat down, stay in that place.
- Doors and/or windows will be kept open for ventilation – yes, even if there is a chilly breeze!
- The toilet is not available for use.

#### The Liturgy

To reduce the time people are together, and to reduce the chance of transmission of the virus, we are not including

- The Sign of Peace
- Hymns

## Holy Communion

At the time for Holy Communion,

- Only the priest will receive from the chalice.
- Wait for a steward to invite you to come forward via the central aisle.
- Extend your hands out as far as you can to receive Communion in the hand.
- The priest will say 'The Body of Christ' as he gives you Communion and you reply 'Amen'.
- Return to your place via the side aisles.

If mobility issues mean you wish to have Communion brought to you at your seat, please mention this to a steward and arrive in good time so you can get a seat at the front of the church.

## After Mass

- Sanitise your hands as you leave.
- It's fine to chat with people outside the church. Please continue to exercise caution, and respect those who are uncomfortable about coming close to others.
- Fr Alistair will not meet with parishioners, but a member of the Pastoral Team will be available. If you need to speak with Fr Alistair, please ring the Parish Office.

## FAQ

- *Has the Sunday obligation been reinstated?*  
No, it's still suspended. If you are clinically vulnerable, or for some other reason don't feel comfortable about coming back to church yet, that's OK.
- *Can children come?*  
Of course, they will be very welcome! Please explain to them that it is important that they keep close to you at all times.
- *Is 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.
- *For how long will these arrangements be in place?*  
We really don't know! It's an evolving situation and we will adjust things based on what happens with Covid-19 cases, on government and diocesan guidance and on our own experience.

***Symptoms of Covid-19? Been asked to self-isolate? Then you MUST stay at home.***

## Changes to this guidance

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary of changes</b>
1	9/7/20	Initial version; re-opening of St Theresa's
1.1	19/7/20	Inclusion of Mass at St George's
2	31/7/20	Encouragement to wear a face-covering No admission after start of Mass
3	13/8/20	Mass at St George's moved from the hall to the church Face-coverings required. Availability of a Pastoral Team member after Mass
4	2/12/20	Reinforcement of information about ventilation Tighter restrictions on social contact Mass at St George's moved to Wednesdays
5	16/3/21	Tighter restrictions on social contact Some minor editing and reformatting of text for clarity
6	29/3/21	Slight relaxation to social contact regulations Rewording of information about booking confirmation Addition of changes log
7	17/5/21	Document rewritten. Step 3 changes incorporated.
8	5/6/21	More relaxations of restrictions included