



## 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 to be re-opening our churches for the public celebration of Mass. Coming together for worship and thanksgiving is central to our faith. However, the pandemic is still with us, and we are being very cautious.

### Coming to Mass

The Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended and nobody should feel any concern about not coming to Mass at present. If you don't feel comfortable about coming yet, that's fine.

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

Numbers are limited to help keep people safe. Because of this, we are operating a booking system – more information on the next page.

### What can I expect?

Keeping people as safe as possible means several things will be different from normal.

- 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.
- Everyone is legally required to wear a face covering; please tell us in advance if you are exempt from this, to avoid embarrassment at the door.
- Please use the hand sanitiser when you arrive and when you leave.
- Once you have chosen your seat, stay in that place.
- Please respect a 2m social distance at all times (arriving, leaving, and Holy Communion).
- Doors and/or windows will be kept open for ventilation – yes, even if there is a chilly breeze!
- The toilet will not be available for use.

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

### The Liturgy and Holy Communion

The liturgy is shorter to reduce the time people are together. There's no Prayer of the Faithful, nor Sign of Peace, nor 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. This means that the priest will raise the Host and say *The Body of Christ*, to which we all respond, *Amen!* The priest will do the same with the chalice: *The Blood of Christ – Amen!* When you come up to receive Holy Communion, neither the priest nor you says anything.

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.

### Social contact

Much as we like to chat with each other, there are still restrictions on this. Only one-to-one conversations, held outside, are legally allowed (other than between members of your household/bubble.)

Fr Alistair will not meet with parishioners after Mass, but a member of the Pastoral Team will be available outside the church. If you need to speak with Fr Alistair, 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 aren't able to admit people without a booking. This is not how we would want to operate but is necessary at present.

There are two Sunday Masses each week: **at 9:30 am at St Theresa's** and **at 11 am at St George's**. 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). Give 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.*

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 will 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. There are QR codes for Universalis on display at the churches.
- *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.
- *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.