

ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST EPHRAIM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ALTAR WHEN SERVICES RESUME

1. Set up and take down

- 1.1 Those involved in setting up and taking down the Altar must wear latex gloves and, as far as possible, observe social distancing.
- 1.2 No other lay people are to enter the chancel before, during or after the services without the agreement of the priest.
- 1.3 Once the iconostasis is in place, anyone entering the altar via the deacon's doors, either before or during services, must sanitise his hands with hand gel on each occasion to avoid contamination via the curtains.
- 1.4 The servers' candles are to be sanitised before each service.

2. Divine Liturgy

General

- 2.1 To prevent cross contamination there will be no commemoration papers or books. For the immediate future there will be no prosphora for the people to send up.
- 2.2 The people will be invited to submit limited numbers of names for commemoration electronically.
- 2.3 There will be only two adult servers at each Liturgy: one standing with the censer near the iconostasis and the other reading commemorations at a table by the organ stool. This will allow the priest free access to the Preparation Table.
- 2.4 Servers are to identify which candle they will carry for the entrances and carry only that candle.

Proskomedias

- 2.5 After washing his hands after vesting, the priest shall use anti-bacterial hand gel.

Censings

- 2.6 Rather than handing the censer to the priest the server should hold the stand, with the censer, towards the priest for him to take. A similar action should be adopted at the end of each censuring.

Entrances

- 2.7 Servers will stand well back from the Holy Table when preparing for the entrances. They will maintain social distancing from each other and from the priest during the entrances and on returning to the altar.
- 2.8 After the Great Entrance, the priest and server holding the censer will immediately gel their hands.

Preparation of antidoron

- 2.9 This will be prepared at the table where commemorations have been read and the server undertaking the preparation will wear latex gloves.
- 2.10 Antidoron will be laid out in rows, on a tray covered with paper towel.

2.11. Antidoron will also be put into small paper bags and handed out at the end of the Liturgy.

Preparation of the Holy Gifts

2.11 After the prayer before the bowing of the heads, the priest will gel his hands. He will gel his hands again after closing the Royal Doors and drawing the curtain.

2.12. A second chalice will be prepared. The clergy will commune from one chalice; the second chalice will be used for the communion of the people

Communion of the people

2.13 The Body and Blood of Christ will be given using disposable wooden spoons. The people will be made aware of this and thus given the opportunity to decide whether to receive Holy Communion or not.

2.13 Zipifka will be available. One of the stewards, wearing latex gloves, will pour a small amount into individual paper cups. The cups should be disposed of after use into a bin which will be placed by the table. The cups will be put into the recycling bin outside the church after the service.

2.14 The next piece of antidoron should be taken, which will be laid out in rows on a tray covered with a paper towel.

3. Clearing up

3.1 Servers are to wear latex gloves when washing plates and cups and shaking cloths outside.

3.2 Social distancing is to be observed as far as possible.

3.3 After everything has been put away the priest and servers are to gel their hands.

4. Vespers

3.1 There will be only one adult server in the altar.

3.2 Social Distancing will be maintained.

3.3. Rather than handing the censer to the priest the server should hold the stand, with the censer, towards the priest for him to take. A similar action should be adopted at the end of each censuring.

3.4. There will be no Litya until further notice.