

# THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST EPHRAIM

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE WHEN SERVICES RESUME

### 1. Services

1.1 Numbers attending services will be limited to comply with the social distancing requirements which apply at the time of re-opening and thereafter. However, in view of the limitation on numbers St Clement's have agreed, pending a resumption of Midday Concerts, that we may celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Saturday at 10.00 as well as on Sunday at 08.00.

1.2 Vespers will continue to be served at 17.00 each Saturday.

1.3 There will be a General Confession after Vespers on Saturday. Those not in the church by the start of the General Confession should not 'take part' in this mystery.

1.4 Those wishing to attend any service on Saturday or Sunday will need to register online by 12.00 on the preceding Friday.

1.5 The doors to the church will be locked at the start of advertised service times to ensure that maximum numbers are not compromised.

1.6 Entry to the church will be via the South Door (on Portugal Place).

### 2. Ensuring safety during services

#### General

2.1 There will be a team of six 'stewards' to assist in directing people into the church and ensuring that social distancing and other requirements are maintained. They will also be responsible for ensuring the church is cleaned, as necessary, at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

2.2 Those attending the church are asked to wear a protective mask or other face covering.

2.2.1. **Any parishioner who may be at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, or anyone with the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home.**

#### Procedures

2.3 The toilets will be locked. Upon entering the church each person is to sanitise his or her hands with hand gel provided.

2.4 To avoid cross contamination, there will be no commemoration papers/books. Those attending the Liturgy may each submit, electronically, a maximum of 10 names of the living and 10 names of the departed, when registering their attendance at the Liturgy. People may make the usual donation when arriving at the church.

2.5 There will be no prosphora for the people to 'send up' to the altar or receive at the end of the Liturgy.

2.6 Candles will be available for sale.

2.7 There must be no physical contact between worshippers in the church. Two metres social distancing is to be observed, as far as possible. Family members should stand together and space will need to be adjusted accordingly, under the supervision of a steward. Parents remain responsible for the behaviour of their children in church.

2.8 For the immediate future, there must be no kissing of icons, the Gospel, the Cross or the hand of the priest. Veneration of icons, the Gospel and the Cross must only be by making the sign of the Cross as usual, then bowing to the icon but not kissing it.

2.9 The choir will consist of a maximum of four people. They will stand at the front of the church, about a metre from the foot of the steps, and will maintain social distancing, as far as

possible.

2.10 Each family is asked to come to Communion as a group. The Body and Blood of Christ will be given using disposable wooden spoons. The spoons should be placed into a sac provided, taken away and burned.

2.11 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.

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

2.13 The outside vestry door will remain open, as far as possible, to assist ventilation of the building.

### **3. Ensuring safety after services**

3.1 At the end of the service, directed by a Steward, the people should walk two metres apart, towards the fronton the nave, back up the north aisle, and leave the church via the door at the back of the church. Unless you intend to help with ‘taking down’ icons and removing pews, do not stand talking in the Church. Leave the building promptly and do not loiter by the church i.e maintain social distancing.

3.2 There will be no Coffee Hour or Church School until further notice.

3.3 When counting cash at the end of the service, those involved must wear latex gloves. A sheet of paper, or something similar, should be placed on the surface on which the money is being counted to avoid contamination from the cash.

3.4 Following the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, the Stewards will supervise the cleaning of all door handles, railings and surfaces using anti-bacterial cleansing wipes. They will also remove the cups used for zipifka, paper from the tray etc.

Rev 03

Fr Raphael Armour  
9 July 2020