



# PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



## Churches of St. Thomas of Canterbury & Holy Redeemer

My dear Parishioners,

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement "The pandemic is not over." Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship. It is most important that we exercise great caution in the implementation of Step 4 Guidance. Accordingly, I have outlined below how we will implement the changes here in the Parish of the Good Shepherd:-

The following guidance has been agreed and will commence Monday, 19th July:-

- We recommend all, apart from those of you who are exempt, continue to wear a face mask. The wearing of face coverings is a protection for others, I urge most strongly that face coverings continue to be worn during the course of celebrations, in accord with our now well-established practice.
- The Sunday Obligation remains suspended. It is hoped to be reintroduced on the First Sunday of Advent.
- Singing will be introduced from Sunday, 25th July. Our choir will occupy the front three pews and are required to wear masks. Anyone who wishes to join the singing may do so, as long as they are also wearing a mask. Hymn books will NOT be available at the present time. You may wish to join our Choir in the front three pews which are reserved should you wish to join in.
- We will continue to operate a one way system which is also well-established.
- Communion under both kinds remains suspended.
- The physical Sign of Peace remains suspended.
- Holy Water stoops will remain empty.
- Our churches will offer restricted and unrestricted areas. These areas will be clearly marked.
- Our Stewards will continue at the weekends only & will be present to welcome and assist you should you require any clarification of the revised guidance.
- Our offertory collection will continue with baskets as you leave the churches. Please consider making online donations by setting up a direct debit – see our newsletter for full details.
- Track and Trace is still a requirement and should be used. QR codes are available at both our churches.
- To ensure your ongoing safety our we will continue maintaining a good standard of cleaning following all Holy Masses.

Whilst the above list may seem onerous to some, I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for us to move slowly and cautiously. Your safety and wellbeing is my priority, and we will continue to monitor case numbers locally and if necessary amend our guidance accordingly. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. Let us continue to pray for an end to this Pandemic, so we can safely celebrate and journey back to the full celebration of Holy Mass. [Please click for latest guidance from Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.](#) or visit [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Be assured of my continued prayers.

*Fr. Dennis Beatty*

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