



Guidelines for Cantors, Readers and Deacons

Version 1 – 1.7.20

A pastoral message from His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos:

“As we return to our beloved churches, we recognise the honour and privilege of once again serving in our holy Sanctuaries and chanting in our blessed places. We also remember the responsibility of our actions and our service in helping to lead worship and be an example to those who are praying. We also give thanks for the gift of prayer both individually and collectively in our parishes that continue to be our much-loved homes.”

Before attending your parish

As per the general advice issued to congregation members:

- Deacons, Cantors and Readers must be advised not to attend parishes under any circumstances if they have: symptoms (even mild) of COVID-19, including a high temperature, a new continuous cough (non-chronic) and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste
- Liturgy attendance for all of the above requires registration and reservation via MyChurch.London

While in attendance

Social Distancing

- A 2-metre distance between individuals (except members of a single household) must be maintained when entering, inside, and exiting the church, including outdoors on church premises
- Members of a single household should be encouraged to sit together, and be at least 2 metres apart from those outside their household

General Guidelines

- Cantors should remain in their designated space for the duration of the service in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

- **Liturgical Vestments (Tonyas)**
 - Vestments currently stored in parishes should not be used.
 - All deacons, readers and cantors should bring their own vestments and take them home to be washed at the end of every service

- **Equipment used by Deacons**
 - Cantors and Altar servants should clean microphones and IT equipment, cymbals and triangle after every service with alcohol wipes
 - Only personal books or electronic tablets should be used
 - Only books must be used in the Sanctuary
 - **Mobile telephone devices must not be used in any event during Services**

- **Processions**
 - During a procession, and circuits around the Sanctuary, all those serving must maintain social distancing

- **The following equipment must not be shared during services:**
 - Microphones
 - Cymbals & triangle
 - Books
 - Communion corporals (lefyef)

The Sanctuary

- A sanitisation station should be provided and used by those serving in the Sanctuary, in preparation for, during and after services

- Reduce the number of utensils utilised in the Sanctuary and side chapels

- There should only be 2 deacons serving in the sanctuary, one on each side of the altar, maintaining a 2-metre distance from each other and the priest(s) at all times, including during the procession of the cross and the procession before the Gospel.

- Children should not be permitted to serve within the Sanctuary during this time

- The Cantor and Sanctuary Deacon should be alert to the ongoing prevention of cross-contamination. **At no point must they come into direct physical contact with one another or the priest(s).** For this reason, the following precautionary measures should also be taken:

- **Books:** The turning the pages of Liturgy books should only be practiced after the washing of hands
- **The Censor:** Clean the censor before passing to Clergy
- **Candles:** Sanctuary servant to be given their own candle to use for the duration of the Liturgy
- **Wine and Water Cruets (Qaroura):** Sanctuary Deacons must wash their hands before handling cruets.
- **Ceremonial Cross and Gospel (Beshara):** Must be cleaned after each usage. There is no veneration of any sacred objects
- **Altar and Utensils:** deacons to sanitise the altar utensils and altar covering at the end of every Liturgical service.

Blessed Bread (Ulogia)

- The Ulogia should be pre-packed by a deacon (wearing gloves and a mask), containing one portion per person/family
- At the end of the Service, the Ulogia will be distributed by a member of clergy at the front of the Church (the same place at which Communion is administered), through the Communion Screen. The Screen should not be moved after Communion

Minimising the risk of infection (Guidance to the congregation)

- All congregation must use hand sanitiser provided at the doors on entry and when leaving the premises
- All Congregation should be instructed to refrain from touching or venerating icons or sacred objects, and greeting Clergy in the traditional manner
- The wearing of masks and gloves is not currently mandatory for members of the congregation. Gloves worn prior to entering the church should be discarded as these cannot be safely sanitised. New gloves can be worn if placed on hands after sanitisation at the door
- Liturgical books should not be provided
- Attendees should bring their own water, as there will be no water provided for the dispensation of Holy Communion