



Update on the wearing of masks 30 July 2020

Message from His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” **(Philippians 2:4)**. This verse leads us, in the spirit of serving one another, to place the needs and protection of others before our own interests, comfort and convenience.

Following increased national conversation on the wearing of masks, consultations have been conducted with the Diocesan Medical Response Group, the Clergy Council and the Diocesan Response Group and as a result, it has been decided, until further notice, that the wearing of masks or appropriate face coverings during services is now highly recommended to minimise the risk of infection among all taking part. This is in large part due to unavoidable shared proximity even with the most stringent social distancing measures.

I thank you all for your patience and faithfulness in adhering to everything that has been asked of you so far, and remind you that in following this guidance, we do so in order to safeguard the well-being of all those taking part in our church services, especially those most vulnerable.

My prayer is that we journey safely through this challenging time together, and rejoice once again very soon in one another’s company in our churches once this has all passed.”

Key Updated Guidance as of 30.07.20

- **Masks:** All those attending church services are requested to bring and wear their own masks or appropriate face coverings
- **Holy Communion:** Masks should be removed in preparation for the receiving of Holy Communion
- **Cantors, deacons, choir:** Those serving in the Sanctuary and in the chorus are required to wear masks for the duration of the service
- **Clergy:** Members of the clergy will wear masks during the incense circuit as they travel through the congregation, and as they exit the church

As you will be aware, the situation regarding Coronavirus is changing on an almost daily basis, and the information below, along with the full Diocesan guidance, will be updated accordingly as the need arises.

- Government Guidance on the wearing of face masks [HERE](#)
- Video message from His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos on the wearing of face masks [HERE](#)