**Staying COVID-19 SECURE**

**Private Devotion in Church from June 13, 2020**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

*We confirm we have complied with the guidance from the government and College of Bishops on managing the risk of COVID-19*

**Opening Times**

The Church of The Holy Innocents will be opened for private prayer and devotion at the following times until further notice:

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00

Saturdays 11:00 – 12:00

Sundays 10:00 – 11:00

In order for as many people as possible to access the church for prayer, we ask you do not attend the church more than once per week. It would be helpful if you could let a member of the ministry team know your intentions before your visit.

All visits will be limited to 15 minutes. These visits are for the purpose of silent prayer only.

**Risk Assessment**

People coming to pray individually in the church represent a wide range of ages and circumstances among the general public. If you are a person who is particularly at risk please speak confidentially with a member of the ministry team.

Over the weeks of closure, the church has been monitored by the management team and contractors. The Upper Hall kitchen is currently in use with a small team preparing meals following strict guidance.

The church space as it is normally used represents a high risk for the contracting and spreading of the corona virus. Your perception of the spread of the virus is an important part of keeping every one safe.

In order to keep our church virus free please be vigilant and follow these rules. If you are feeling even slightly unwell do not come to the church. If you become unwell please contact us with relevant information.

**Hygiene and Cleaning**

The church is being cleaned regularly following agreed COVID-19 secure protocols.

Please wash your hands thoroughly before leaving home and be mindful of what you touch. Toilet facilities will not be available during your visit to the church.

As you enter the church please use hand sanitiser. It is helpful if you bring your own supply.

Masks and face coverings are allowed within the church but are not required. You are welcome to wear gloves if this gives you an added sense of security.

The doors will be open so you do not touch need to touch any surface.

Doors and common surfaces will be wiped down each time the church is closed and opened.

When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and throw the tissue away immediately in the bin provided. Please use hand sanitiser.

Communal objects are not available for use (prayer books, matches). Please provide your own prayer book or devotional objects.

**Social Distancing**

Strict social distancing is required at all times in the church. Please sit several seats apart. Visits will be limited to 15 minutes. All conversations must be had strictly outside the building (e.g. in the drive beyond the front doors).

People must enter and leave the church one at a time.

**Children and Young People**

Families are welcome and encouraged to come and pray together. There is no provision for common toys, books or a play corner. Normal safeguarding and supervision rules apply.

**Holy Water and Votive Candles**

The holy water stoop must remain dry. If you wish to have your own supply of holy water please provide an appropriate receptacle and speak to a member of the ministry team.

Votive candles may be lit as long as you bring your own matches and do not touch the pricket stand while placing your candles. This must be done only with supervision by a member of the ministry team. Observe socially distancing at all times.

**Offerings and Stewardship**

Donations are best made electronically or by post. If you wish to leave a cash offering please use the safe in the porch after informing a member of the ministry team.

**Risk Management**

The fewer number of people in the building at any one time the lower the risk of transmission. We suggest no more than 6 people in the church at the same time. You must not gather, cluster or mix households while inside the church building. Keep your social interaction to a minimum until you are outside.

Further steps in our recovery will happen in stages. We will update you in early July.