

Cathedral of Our Lady and St Philip Howard

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

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Dear Parishioner,

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Bishop Richard has written to each Parish Priest with the following instructions, most of which we implemented last week, so we are well prepared to implement some additional measures. I appreciate they will cause some inconvenience, however these instructions from Bishop Richard must be followed with immediate effect. The following is a direct quote from his letter-

- 1) “The sign of peace is to be suspended at Mass. In order not to create confusion in the minds of the lay faithful, I request that all priests simply omit any reference to the offering of the sign of peace, prior to the *Agnus Dei*.
- 2) Holy Communion from the chalice shall cease to be offered to the lay faithful. The practice of intinction is not to be introduced as an alternative. Similarly, Holy Communion from the chalice should not be given to Deacons.
- 3) Those who choose to receive Holy Communion on the tongue should be encouraged to receive on the hand instead. Those who find it especially difficult to not to receive on the tongue should be asked to receive Holy Communion after those who receive on the hand. You may judge it helpful to remind people of the value of a Spiritual Communion, mindful that the Sunday Obligation is to join in the celebration of Mass.
- 4) Holy water stoups in churches and chapels are to be emptied.
- 5) Churches and chapels that are open daily for private prayer should continue to remain open. Care should be given to

ensuring that surfaces of high contact (e.g. light switches, door handles and areas around the door) are regularly sanitised throughout the day.

- 6) Ministers should wash and also sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. Shared towels should not be used in toilet areas or the sacristy.
- 7) Shared hymnbooks and Mass books should cease to be used. Single-use Mass sheets may be used, though these should be disposed of immediately after use.
- 8) All catering in parish halls is to cease. This includes such gatherings as refreshments after Mass and any catering for groups that may be hiring parish halls.

It will be important to provide frequent reminders about thorough hand washing for all who attend Mass and other events in parishes.

These measures will be reviewed in response to the advice of Public Health England and parishes advised accordingly”.

Thank you all for your co-operation with these measures, please continue to pray for all those who have died, are unwell or need to self-isolate. Pray also for those in government who have to take serious and difficult decisions and those in the front-line health, care and welfare services.

With my best wishes and prayers,

David Parmiter

Canon David Parmiter

