

Saint Edmund's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 6th August 2020

Present: Father Vincent, Tricia Davies, Christine Martin, Tony Matthews, Helen Murphy, Rob Pickford, Albert Pace, Martin Hinnigan.
Paul Blake (Clerk).

Apologies: Elizabeth Hitchens, Kathleen Joyce.

The meeting opened at 7.00.p.m. with Father Vincent taking the Chair and thanking all for their attendance.

The meeting had been called to review the arrangements for the re-opening of the church for public worship. In addition to the previous guidance from The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Bishop Declan, and HM Government, updated guidance has been received on the wearing of face coverings.

After discussion, and reference to the various guidelines, the following items were agreed:

Those cleaning the church after each Mass will be asked to clean the microphone on the ambo. By doing this those reading at Mass will be able to adjust the microphone to the correct height. It is advisable that they do this before Mass starts. Paul Blake will email the cleaners and the readers about this.

For the wearing of face coverings and reception of Holy Communion the following wording was agreed to go in the newsletter:

“For the reception of Holy Communion please keep your face covering in place as you approach Father Vincent. With arms fully extended and with palms upwards receive the host in the hand. Please then take a step to either the left or the right, unloop the face covering and consume the host. Then replace your face covering and return to your place via a side aisle. Do not return to your place until you have consumed the host and replaced your face covering.”

For those who arrive at Mass without a face covering some disposable masks will be available for stewards to provide. Those adults who are exempt from using a face covering will be asked to use the rear fire doors and occupy the rear bench.

Stewards will be asked to use the seating plan provided for each Mass to mark who has attended.

The sheet will then be left in the porch for Christine Martin to collect.

Paul Blake will contact the stewards to inform them of these arrangements.

Teresa Quinn will be asked to prepare rotas for September and October. An appeal for additional cleaners will be made in the parish newsletter.

Those undertaking the cleaning will be reminded about the safe disposal of rubbish and the need to ensure that arrangements are in place for the locking up of the church.

The draw for the 100 club, including past missed monthly draws, will take place in October.

A further meeting will be called in late September to review the situation.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8.20.p.m.