

New Covid-19 Guidelines – 19 July 2021 St Antony's Catholic Church, Forest Gate

From Monday 19 July many of the current restrictions have been lifted in our churches and taking our lead from both the Government and the Bishops' Step 4 guidance we will introduce a cautious and phased easing of Covid restrictions here at St Antony's.

This brings an end to the official social distancing arrangements, although certain areas in St Antony's will still be reserved for social distanced seating. Given the size of our church, it allows that there will be more choice where people can sit and how to socially distance.

- Congregational singing will be allowed again
- The collection will also now return to its traditional position during Mass.
- The Church will be open during the day for anyone who wants to come and pray.
- Timings for all services and confessions are available on the parish website and in the newsletter

We are aware that some of us may still be anxious about coming into public buildings. Therefore, we encourage the following:

- That face coverings continue to be worn when in the Church at Mass and busy services, unless you are exempt
- That you sanitise your hands on entering the Church
- That, where possible, you try to leave a space between you and other people not known to you
- We also ask that you do not come into the Church if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or have been asked to self-isolate having come into contact with someone with the virus
- The Test and Trace code will still be available as you enter the church

Therefore, much of what we have been doing up to now will continue but with some cautious easing that allows parishioners to be more responsible for their own actions. I am confident that the vast majority of our community will do so and continue to have a real concern for their fellow parishioners.