

## St. Francis of Assisi Church. Middlesbrough

### OPENING OF THE PARISH CHURCH FOR THE SARAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST- JULY 2020

#### RISK ASSESSMENT

This risk assessment is prepared to enable appropriate measures to be taken prior to and during the opening of the church for the celebration of Mass only, following the COVID-19 Virus outbreak.

The opening of the parish church, in accordance with national guidelines, presents initial foreseeable risk (consequence x likelihood) so without all of these measures applied, it is reasonable to conclude that contamination could occur and be passed on, leading to illness.

The risk assessment is on the basis, therefore, of reducing the risk of transmission of the virus to a level of as low as reasonably possible (ALARP), whilst enabling the Mass to take place.

Ref	Area/Issue	Hazards	Mitigations Required	How Controlled	Check/ sign/ date
<b>PREPARATIONS AND SET UP</b>					
1	Items kept in church	'Touch' hazards and obstructions to hamper cleaning due to loose items in church - papers, pamphlets, hymn books, candles, including non-laminated notices.	Inspect and remove all unnecessary loose items, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove Missals and hymn books.</li> <li>• Remove bookshelf storage systems.</li> <li>• Remove all pamphlets and leaflets.</li> <li>• Remove candles.</li> <li>• Remove any fabric padded/backed chairs.</li> <li>• Tables to be cleared of all non-essential materials.</li> </ul>	Pre-opening checklist Cleaners Instructions	
2	Enabling social Distancing	Pews enabling worshippers to sit too close to each other at present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude access to pews and mark out safe seating positions. (red crosses/green ticks).</li> <li>• Produce and display explanatory posters for worshippers, to show how to use seating and keep safe distance.</li> <li>• Mark flooring to show 1m+ spacing.</li> </ul>	Pre-opening Checklist	

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3	Provision of hand sanitiser	There are no handwashing facilities available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide hand sanitiser points at the entrance/exit with at least 65% alcohol gel</li> <li>•Put up posters reminding of need for sanitising hands on entrance and exit.</li> <li>•Gel to be appropriately packaged to include chemical hazard details.</li> </ul>	Pre-Opening Checklist.	
4	Use of water	Water systems have been left for many weeks and water could be stagnant in pipes (toilets/hall). Risk of legionella bacteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No access to toilets within the Church building for attending worshippers, unless absolute emergency.</li> <li>•Water available in the sacristy/associated facilities has been in daily use.</li> </ul>	Pre-Opening checklist.	
5	Use of Holy Water	Holy water in stoups could transmit virus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Stoups to be empty.</li> </ul>	Pre-opening Checklist	
6	Signage	Signage needed to remind people of hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hand sanitising</li> <li>•Entry/Exit</li> <li>•Social distancing reminders</li> <li>•<i>Mask wearing required by worshippers to meet the requirement of 1m + guidance –</i></li> <li>•Seating Plan/maximum capacity identified.</li> <li>•Seating arrangements per pew.</li> <li>•Opening times.</li> </ul>	Pre-Opening Checklist	
7	Initial cleaning	Any current contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Thorough deep clean of church and all surfaces likely to be touched by worshippers and stewards prior to opening.</li> </ul>	Pre-opening Checklist Cleaners Instructions	
8	Seating contamination	Fabric seating materials harbour contaminant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Fabric padded/backing seating removed from the back of the Church.</li> </ul>	Pre-opening Checklist	
<b>VISITOR MANAGEMENT</b>					

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9	Visitor management	<p>Unless there is some form of advice and guidance in place, worshippers may not understand the requirements and could inadvertently spread virus.</p> <p>Lack of awareness of who is acting as a steward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication prepared and shared with worshippers in advance – use social media and other platforms to provide guidance in advance of church opening/worshippers attending.</li> <li>• Entry information presented on monitor and printed documents.</li> <li>• Appoint stewards to control access and advise worshippers.</li> <li>• Visible plan and identified control measures accessible.</li> <li>• Stewards to wear appropriate ID.</li> </ul>	<p>Communications, signage, Entrance info.</p> <p>Appoint teams from suitable volunteers. Produce rota. Record who is on duty and when. Include DBS cleared persons where possible in each shift.</p> <p>ID badges to be worn by stewards.</p>	
10	Managing entrance	Those who have symptoms could transmit virus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct worshippers to follow PHE guidelines where those with obvious cold or flu like symptoms must not enter the church.</li> <li>• On becoming aware that someone may have visited with such symptoms, end session and fully clean before reopening.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions, Signage.	
11	Managing seating and numbers of worshippers	Overcrowding and sitting too close together leading to transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum occupancy of worshippers currently limited to 45.</li> <li>• Household groups (greater than two/bench) may increase this number by sitting together, though guidance to be made to encourage lone worship if possible/practicable.</li> <li>• Stewards to control numbers by ensuring people wait outside, apply appropriate distancing when necessary.</li> <li>• Provide sufficient opportunities for worshippers to attend so avoiding peaks.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions	

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12	Managing flows of worshippers (see additional requirement in sec 13).	Interaction/subsequent cross contamination between people entering/leaving and using seats/moving about church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-way system to have a separate entrance/exit control. It may still be necessary to ask people to wait to enter until others have left.</li> <li>• 1m+ spacing has been indicated at the entrance and on the aisles.</li> <li>• Doors at the access and egress points secured open to minimise risk of transmission by contact.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions, signage.	
13	Containing worshippers to the main church	<p>The church has other facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confessionals,</li> <li>• sacristy,</li> <li>• hall,</li> <li>• storage cupboards,</li> <li>• male/female/disabled WC's,</li> <li>• piety shop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewards to ensure that doors to the sacristy and other areas (as identified) are kept closed/locked where applicable, signage applied and areas not used.</li> <li>• No catering or other provisions to be afforded.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions, Signage,	
14	Veneration of Statues	Touch hazards from repeated contact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No touching or veneration of any objects.</li> <li>•Vigilance by stewards.</li> <li>•Immediate cleansing if touching observed.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions Signage applied.	
15	General housekeeping	Items being left in church may accumulate and lead to 'touch' transmission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Worshippers required not to leave any item in church such as personal Missals, prayer cards or books.</li> <li>•Any items left to be collected by stewards/cleaners and removed by using gloves and bags.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions Cleaners Instructions	

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16	Transmission <i>from</i> Stewards	Stewards may unknowingly carry virus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Follow PHE guidance and not attending if they suspect infection of themselves, a household member or a contact.</li> <li>•Keep a 1m+ distance from worshippers, no handshakes or hugs, and not seek to aid them physically unless in an absolute emergency (respond in suitable ppe). Guidance in stewards Instructions.</li> <li>•Practice good hand hygiene.</li> <li>•Use only paper tissues, not cloth hankies, dispose of immediately and sanitise hands immediately.</li> <li>•Wearing of a facemask.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions	
17	Ventilation	Good ventilation will help airborne contamination to disperse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Doors to be kept open where possible.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions.	
19	Children in Church	Children may not understand the issues regarding touch, distance etc. Vulnerability of lone children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Children under 16 yrs. old to be accompanied by an adult from their household where possible.</li> <li>•Existing safeguarding protocols MUST be applied.</li> </ul>	Stewards Instructions	
20	Vulnerable Adults	Vulnerable adults may not understand the issues regarding touch, distance, control measures applied etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Existing safeguarding protocols MUST be applied.</li> </ul>		
21	Slip, trip and fall.	Slipping, tripping on floor coverings/hazard tape etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Proprietary equipment, including use of carpet tiled arrows rather than loose floor taping.</li> </ul>	Steward instructions, continual monitoring.	

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22	Fire.	Fire within church and/or associated rooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No candles to be lighted.</li> <li>•Previous fire certification being applied and controls take precedence over COVID-19 risk.</li> </ul>	Candles removed in advance of church opening. Firefighting systems available and operable. Fire exit routes unimpeded & available.	
23	Stewards' (mis)interpretations of guidance.	Stewards being unaware of or misinterpreting guidance or acting in an opposing way to defined guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Clear and unambiguous guidelines, individuals taken through in advance of church opening.</li> <li>•Compliance expectations.</li> </ul>	People selected/utilised who will display suitably appropriate behaviours.  Team briefings.	
<b>CLEANING</b>					

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24	Maintaining a safe environment	Touch transmission of virus – see sec 18 ref management of chapel facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Cleaning of church at the end of each visitor session.</li> <li>•Use detergent and water or detergent spray.</li> <li>•Use disposable cloths/wipes/paper tissues.</li> <li>•Pay particular attention to frequently touched surfaces such as handrails and door handles.</li> <li>•Cleaning of seating space after each worshipper leaves – zonal operation of seating areas.</li> <li>•All door handles to be cleaned with alcohol gel or wipes at the end of each private prayer session.</li>   <li>•Seating facility cleaned between each penitent.</li> <li>•Door to/from the chapel to be opened by a suitably protected steward.</li> </ul>	Cleaning Instructions Stewards Instructions.	

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25	Protection of cleaners	<p>Inadvertently encountering contamination (from virus and/or chemical cleaning materials).</p> <p>Heat fatigue due to wearing ppe.</p> <p>Trip hazard due to the face visor/spectacles steaming up and reducing visibility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaners to wear disposable gloves and aprons and face shields which are suitably disposed of or cleaned afterwards (face shields to be personal issue/responsibility for cleaning/storage).</li> <li>• Cleaners to use good hygiene with proper 20 second handwashing with soap and water particularly after removing ppe.</li> <li>• After cleaning, cleaners to be encouraged to return home and shower immediately. Clothes worn should be kept apart and washed as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Cleaners to be made aware of risk from wearing ppe levels; be aware of surroundings and their location.</li> <li>• Reduce impact/risk by sharing workload across the team.</li> <li>• Appropriate use of the team members – allocate roles according to capacity.</li> <li>• Take appropriate care and time to complete.</li> </ul>	Cleaners Instructions.	