

# Orthodox Church of St Andrew the Apostle,

Egham, Windsor, Slough, and District,

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE for parishioners attending Divine Liturgies ( [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

### (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE ATTENDING)

The corona virus is highly contagious and can spread more easily in communal and enclosed spaces, such as churches, than outside so if you choose to worship with us you do so at your own risk.

If you are unwell or showing symptoms of COVID-19 you should not come to church.

- There are seats for 6 to 8 people (allowing room for bubbles) inside the church. Lockdown regulations do not allow any people to congregate outside the church or surrounding area. (Local Authority Regulations)
- Entrance will be on a first come first served basis.
- Both doors and windows will remain open through out for good ventilation; please be aware that it may be cold sitting inside and dress accordingly.

### New Rules

- Social distancing of one meter plus must always be maintained two meters is preferable.
- The Orthros will start at 9:30 am – you are encouraged to come at 10:45 am for the Liturgy.
- Your temperature will be taken upon arrival. Anyone showing signs of being symptomatic will not be allowed in. This is for the protection of all.
- We would like your contact details, name, and telephone number so we may comply with the NHS Test and Trace service – [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) For this reason, we also ask that you let us know should you come down with Covid-19 within 14 days of coming to church. Please note that giving your details is optional and not a condition of attending services. Any data you give us will not be used for any other reason and will be kept safe for three weeks and then destroyed.
- When entering and exiting the church please sanitise your hands with the sanitiser provided.
- Face masks are mandatory now in places of worship, so we ask that you wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth before you enter the church. Masks with exhalation valves or vents are not suitable. (We understand some people and children are exempt)
- Please do not touch or kiss the icons and refrain from touching other areas as much as possible.
- Once in your place please remain there until the end of the Service.
- If you need to cough or sneeze, please cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or the crook of your sleeved arm (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue and throw the tissue away hygienically immediately afterwards, then sanitise your hands.
- Please avoid singing, shouting, and/or raising you voice as there is a risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets.
- If you bring children with you, please keep them close to you; do not allow them to run around the church and touch things.
- **Holy Communion** will be offered in the usual way. If you choose to take Holy Communion, please wait at your seat or outside until you are told to approach the Holy Chalice. Please do not attempt to kiss the priest's hand.
- Antidoron will be pre-bagged and you may pick one bag on your way out if you wish. Please avoid touching other bags.
- There will be no collection tray during the Divine Services – donations may be placed in the box provided at entrance/exit. Should you wish to donate by bank transfer our details are:  
Greek Orthodox Community of St Andrew: Sort Code: 40 47 37 Account No. 81228870
- Once the Service has ended, please leave the area promptly and do not stop around to chat.

**Thank you for your patience and compliance during these difficult times.**

This guidance will be updated as and when further changes come into effect. Last updated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021