



# St. Edward's Church Reopening Policies

**Hello Everyone,**

**Welcome back!!! It is wonderful that we are able to open our doors once again and join together in worship. Obviously safety is the primary concern as we reopen. Our church services will be far from what you have been accustomed to, so please read these policies carefully. They were created to ensure we adhere to the strict regulations we have received from federal, cantonal, and diocesan authorities.**

**Our policies are in two sections:**

- **Overall Church Policies**
- **Worship Policies**

**They will be clearly posted at the church and on our website.**

**They will also be reviewed verbally before each service.**

## **Overall Church Policies**

- **The church will have been professionally cleaned and sanitised.**
- **Vulnerable church members are encouraged to prioritise their safety over attendance to worship.**
- **If you are feeling ill or in a household with someone who is you should stay at home.**
- **Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance and must be used upon entry to the church. We also recommend every worshipper bring their own small bottle of hand sanitiser.**
- **The wearing of face masks is not required but is highly recommended. Please consider they promote not only your safety but those around you.**
- **Social distancing measures will be in place to manage seating and entry / exit of the church. Seats will have 4 sqm around them. Seats will be set for single use and family use. Distance must be maintained when entering and exiting the church, especially in our narrow entry and exit points.**
- **No body contact. Please do not exchange greetings in a physical manner for example: hugs, kisses, shaking hands.**
- **As per diocesan guidelines, during this reopening period we will not sing any hymns.**
- **Do not gather in the courtyard or other open areas before or after the service.**
- **Sunday School will not be offered at this time.**
- **The children's corner in back of church will be closed. Children should stay together with their family for the duration of the service and during entry/exit of the church.**
- **Coffee hour will not be held during this reopening period.**
- **Flowers are not to be brought into the church during the reopening period.**
- **Casa Benson will remain closed. The exterior door will be open to allow access to the bathroom. All other rooms will be closed.**
- **Do not leave your personal belongings (jacket, cap, bags, etc) anywhere. Keep them with you at your seat.**
- **The main entrance door to the church and windows will be kept open at all times (even during the service) to avoid repeated touching of the handle and to ease circulation of fresh air.**
- **No mid-week services will be held during the reopening period.**
- **Fr Nigel will not wear vestments during this reopening period.**



# St. Edward's Church Reopening Policies

## Worship Policies

### Arrival at church:

- Social distancing rules necessitate restricted seating capacity, so please plan your arrival no later than 10:15 am. This will help avoid any congestion entering the church.
- Do not congregate in courtyard.
- Entry to the church will be through the main door only. Please observe social distancing measures if someone is entering before you. Markings will be placed on the ground to help visualise the distance. Please also observe this on the sidewalk outside the church.
- Greeters will be in place to answer questions while respecting social distances.

### Church Service:

- The service will be a shortened Eucharist.
- Seating will be set to observe social distancing requirements. Single and family seating will be available. If you are by yourself (with no other family member) do not sit in an area where seats are grouped together for families.
- Hymn books and red books will not be available. An order of service (liturgy) will be placed on seats. They are not to be left behind but taken away for disposal after the service.
- Singing of hymns will not take place in the reopening period.
- There will not be a Gospel procession.
- The peace offering will be done from your seat and a wave to other members is sufficient.
- A collection will not be taken. If you wish to contribute to the church please leave your offering at the back of the church in the provided basket or donate electronically.
- Communion will be offered (wafer only). It will be distributed by Fr Nigel placing the wafer on a single serving container. There will be no individual blessing. Communicants will be directed by greeters on when to approach the altar to receive the wafer. If you do not wish to receive communion please stay in your seat.
- The names of all those present in church will be recorded.

### Exiting the church:

- When the service is over please exit the church and do not congregate in the church or courtyard.
- Greeters will help control the exit of the church to ensure social distancing remains in place.
- Due to the need to exit the church efficiently, please do not speak with Fr Nigel. This is also for his own safety.