

# THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

## Safety Protocol

*The below relate directly to worship services of the Church of the Epiphany.*

### Note on Vulnerable Groups

Individuals with chronic conditions and pregnant women are advised by MoPH and MoFA to not attend religious gatherings at this time.

### Entry into the Anglican Centre

The MoPH's Covid-19 protocol requires the following for entry into the Anglican Centre:

- A Face Mask be worn at all times
- Social Distancing be adhered to at all times.
- Temperature will be taken upon entry.
- All are required to sanitize their hands upon entry.
- Pre-registration is required (to register, see: Home page of [www.anglicanchurchinqatar.org](http://www.anglicanchurchinqatar.org))

### Worship Services

Our gathering for worship in the church (sanctuary or chapel) will follow the guidelines for social and religious gatherings set out by MoPH and as directed by MoFA.

- This includes limitations on the number of people who may be present, and the social distancing space to be maintained between people in a gathered setting.
  - During the phase of social-distancing, this means that people are seated in the pews in marked spaces (with stickers) that are 1.5 meters apart. The seating spots in the pews are staggered to ensure no one is sitting directly in front of another.
    - Note: Members of household groups living in the same space will not be required to observe separation from each other; but as a group they should observe the 1.5-meter physical separation from others.
  - The choir on the balcony must also observe these requirements.
- All visitors are asked to come early.
- All visitors are asked to enter the building through the two designated entrances, instead of via the church office (which will be closed).
- All entering the sanctuary or chapel are asked to use the self-sanitizing hand dispensers at the entrance to disinfect their hands.
- All congregants are required to wear face masks throughout the entirety of the worship service, with the exception of consuming the Eucharistic bread, when Holy Communion is celebrated.

- The clergy leading a worship service may do so without a mask if they maintain a 1.5-meter distance from others in the altar area.
- No printed materials (i.e. announcement sheets) will be distributed.
- There should be no physical contact between congregants. The peace will be exchanged without physical contact.
- The offering will not to be collected by passing offering bags. A secure offering collection box is positioned at both the entrance and front of the church in order to receive in-present offerings, which will be monitored for security the entire service. However, we strongly encourage people to continue to make their pledges, tithes and offering contributions by means of electronic bank transfer to the church account.
- At this time, when the Eucharist is celebrated, only the bread is served.
  - All those assisting during the celebration of Eucharist should use hand sanitizer immediately before the Eucharistic prayer, and this must be done in the sight of the people.
  - Sanitizer should be used once again by the clergy before the distribution of communion bread.
  - The bread that the celebrant breaks during the celebration of the Eucharist, is to be consumed only by the celebrant and not made part of the distributed Eucharist.
  - The clergy are to wear masks during the distribution of communion to the people.
  - Those receiving the Eucharist should maintain a 1.5-meter distance while in the line approaching the front.
  - The communion rail will not be used. Congregants will approach the priest one by one to receive the sacrament while maintaining 1.5-meters of separation at all times in line.
  - The priest will place a consecrated bread in each parishioner's hands, being careful not to touch a hand or body part. If touching accidentally occurs, the priest will return to the credence table and sanitize his hands again.
  - Congregants will return to their seats before briefly lifting their masks to consume the bread.
  - The Priest will place any remaining consecrated bread on the credence table, to be removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner (not consumed), following the service.

- The sanctuary and chapel will be disinfected after each service, as well as all equipment used in it.
- Live-streaming of Friday worship services will be a permanent extension of the ministry of our church.
- In-person gatherings for fellowship (coffee/tea time, etc.) are suspended (i.e. Corinth Hall, Epiphany Room, etc.) for the time being.
- The use of the Cry Room/Creche for infants is suspended for the time being.
- Friday School programs and any adult formation offerings continue as virtual platforms for the time being.
- At the conclusion of all worship services, clergy will not stand in the doorway to greet departing people.

### **Ministries of Service related to Worship**

- Those preparing the altar for worship must do so while observing physical distancing requirements. They must also sanitize their hands prior to preparing the altar.
- All those counting a collection should (a) wear masks, (b) wear gloves, and (c) prepare the collection for deposit in sealed envelopes.