

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MUSAFFAH, ABU DHABI
NORMS FOR OPENING THE CHURCH

With gratitude to God and Government Authorities & DCD and in accordance with the permission and guidance of the government, the health authorities & DCD, and with the approval and blessings from our Bishop Paul Hinder, we take courage to return to our liturgical and devotional practices in a safe and phased way. **We are happy to announce the opening of St. Paul's Church, Musaffah for the faithful for Mass from 7th September 2020.**

It is important that we act together and clear about what is legitimate and prudent at each stage of the process as we begin to resume our liturgical celebrations with the community.

Christian charity demands us to be attentive so that we do not become the cause of the spread of contagion. At the same time, we cannot deprive ourselves of the spiritual food for an indefinite period. Many have constantly asked us: When will the churches be opened?

Divine Worship and Sacraments are essential to our faith life; the unwarranted fear and anxiety cannot immobilize us amidst difficult situation. "God has not given us a spirit of fear; instead he has given us a spirit of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim 1:7). We shall overcome the pandemic with faith in God and love for all.

We follow the following norms for our own good and good of others:

Guidelines for Faithful

- **All will enter the Church compound through the basement entry only.** You will not able to use elevators for coming or to go back.
- **All those who come to the church will undergo the thermal checking at the entry for fever with the non-contact infrared thermometer.**
- Faithful having temperature equal to or more than 37.5 degree centigrade or/and symptoms of cough, cold, throat pain and difficulty in breathing will not be allowed inside the church. They will be advised to seek medical consultation.

- In the event that symptoms of an infection appear on an individual, we are bound to take necessary actions and contact the concerned authorities to ensure the safety of the faithful.
- Cooperate with those who are doing thermal screening and follow the directions of the volunteers/ushers.
- **All those who participate in the services compulsorily should wear a facial mask and hand gloves at the premises and inside the church.** The faithful are requested to bring their own face mask and hand gloves. Entry will be denied if one does not comply.
- **Hands must be sanitized before entering the church.** Sanitizer is provided at the entrance of the Church. You may bring your own sanitizer.
- **Please follow social distancing rules – 2 meter distance from another person.**
- Do not touch statues and images inside/outside the church. Do not touch anything that belongs to someone else.
- Come to the church 30 minutes before the Mass and disperse soon after the service. Do not continue to stay in church campus after the service.
- For your convenience (for the sake of cooling), the main entry will be through the basement (Basement Garage entry). All other gates will remain closed and will be used for exit only.
- No vehicles will be allowed to park in the basement.
- The seating places are marked to facilitate the observance of social distancing norm.
- Once the Church is full, others will be directed to the Hall, where live mass is transmitted.
- Please follow respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue, handkerchief, flexed elbow and disposing off used tissues properly.
- Tissues used to clean hands, must be disposed in a dustbin.
- **You cannot use washrooms of the church campus.**
- The ministry of **Altar Servers** at the Mass is suspended until further notice.

- All prayer meetings or other meetings and gatherings are suspended for the time being.
- For now **Catechism** classes will be held online/zoom only.

Music:

- Health experts indicate that singing produces 6-10x more droplets from our mouths than recitation. A choir should not have more than 3 members (including the instrumentalist), and each member spaced at least 2 meters apart.

Following persons are not allowed to come to the Church:

- ☒ Persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below 12 years are advised not to participate in services held in the churches and advised to stay at home.
- ☒ People living in quarantine should not come to the church.
- ☒ Persons already infected with Covid-19 and those exhibiting the symptoms, these should never attend the services or come in contact with others for the greater good of the community/society.
- ☒ Masses will be transmitted live. Hence, all those who are unable to participate in the Eucharist for any reason during this time, are advised to participate online Masses from the safety of their homes.

How to choose your preferred mass?

Choose the preferred Mass by filling the details:

- 1. Your Name:**
 - 2. Date of Birth**
 - 3. Gender**
 - 4. Emirates ID Number or Passport Number (for visit visa only)**
 - 5. Telephone Number**
 - 6. Email ID**
- You will find the link to choose your preferred Mass in our Facebook page: St. Paul's Catholic Church, Musaffah or our Website: St. Paul's Catholic Church, Musaffah. We will send the link in the WhatsApp groups as well, so that all will receive them.
 - Once you complete the correct required information you will receive an email communication.

- You will receive an email before 24 hours, confirming you to attend the preferred mass. Only confirmed persons are allowed to attend that particular Mass.
- Kindly reach the church gate 30 minutes prior to the Mass to complete all verification and sanitization process to occupy your seat.
- The service will commence on time. **The entry gates will be closed 10 minutes before the Mass.** Late comers will not be allowed.

Inside the Church

- ✓ Please take the seats from front to back one after the other as you come, without leaving any seat in between. The ushers will guide you. Please follow their instructions without fail.
- ✓ Please remain in your seat till the end.
- ✓ The sign of peace shall be expressed by bowing heads with folded hands only.
- ✓ Holy Communion will be distributed at your place. Priest will bring communion to you.
- ✓ Those who are in the Hall, communion will be distributed in the Hall.
- ✓ Communion will be given in the hands only.
- ✓ All need to leave the Church/Hall after the Mass, so as to facilitate us to disinfect the place for the next Mass.
- ✓ Please keep prescribed social distance (2 meters) as you exit the Church/Hall.
- ✓ All will leave the Church campus through the front & back gate.