



## **POLICY ON THE USE OF FACE MASKS DURING CHURCH CELEBRATIONS**

1. Masks are mandatory in the churches of the Diocese where made necessary by law. Where use of masks is not mandatory, the Bishop of London strongly recommends that masks be worn out of charity and justice for the sake of others in the community.
  - Priests wear masks at all times other than leading prayers, reading the Scripture or preaching. If speaking, the mask may be removed. If not speaking, it must be worn as a sign of modeling proper behaviour.
  - Lectors and deacons may remove masks when reading the Scriptures, prayers or preaching.
2. Masks are worn for the distribution and reception of Holy Communion.
  - Members of the congregation wear their mask to move forward to receive Communion and when they return to their seat; they are permitted to remove the mask to place Communion in their mouth.
  - Masks are worn by all who distribute Communion.
3. Musicians, whether in the choir loft (or area), must maintain physical distancing of 3 metres (10 feet) from other people while singing.
  - Cantors (solo singers) may remove masks for such singing. Singing is restricted to the time before and after Mass.
4. Where Confession is heard, the priest and penitent must wear a mask for the duration of the rite of Confession.
5. Priests and deacons wear masks for the rites of Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick when they are close to the person receiving the sacrament (pouring water, anointing, etc.).
  - A cotton tip is used for the anointing and then properly disposed of (buried or burned).
6. For the rite of Marriage, priests and deacons will wear a mask when receiving the promises and vows.
  - The bride and groom must wear masks but may remove them when making promises and vows.
  - All other guests must wear masks according to the directives for the celebration of Mass.

Dated: 14 September 2020