



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Venerable Robert Camara
Executive Archdeacon & Vicar General

February 21, 2022

Dear colleagues,

A couple of small clarifications to the changes to Covid-19 protocols regarding worship following the announcements made last week:

INDOOR SERVICES: Masks must be worn at all times, a distance of one metre maintained between households, and hand sanitizer made available. *Readers, preachers, presider, etc. can remove their masks when leading as long as they remain two meters away from the congregation and others.*

SINGING: Congregations may continue to sing if masked. Choirs remain permitted, so long as the members of the choir wear procedural masks while singing and they remain two metres apart from each other and the congregation. *However, if all members of the choir voluntarily choose to present their vaccination passports, the distance can be reduced to one metre and masks can be removed while singing.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: Masks must be worn at all times, for all of these actions. Ashes may be imposed on the forehead, with cotton balls, Q-tips or with the thumb. The minister need not sanitize their hands between each person. As with the distribution of holy communion, physical distancing must be maintained as people come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. It is recommended that the minister speak the words of imposition (“Remember that you are but dust...”) from a physical distance of two metres, before moving forward to touch the person. Alternatively, those worshippers who prefer not to be touched should have the option of coming forward with crossed arms (or another gesture) to indicate that they would prefer to be sprinkled with ashes, a historic practice. No one should feel obliged to impose, or to receive, ashes if they are not comfortable doing so.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: If it is the custom of your parish to wash feet at Maundy Thursday liturgies, this practice may resume. As with the distribution of holy communion, physical distancing must be maintained as people come forward for the foot-washing. Chairs should be adequately spaced out to maintain physical distancing. Ideally, each person being washed should bring, or be provided with, their own towel. No one should feel obliged to wash feet, or have their feet washed, if they are not comfortable doing so.

Government updates can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/3hyPYUw>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or your territorial archdeacon.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Caron" followed by a small cross symbol.