

Diocese in Europe
St Boniface Church,
Grétrystraat 39,
2018 Antwerpen,
Belgium

Anglican Church of St Boniface, Antwerpen – Phased opening of
churches- updated 5 June, 2020

Arrangements as of May 25th

At the present moment there are no wedding blessings planned and the church is not open for private prayer as supervision and cleaning cannot be guaranteed. For funerals, arrangements will be made within the strict guidelines of the Belgian State if and when required. Mass is said daily in a closed church.

Phased opening when announced by Belgian State and town of Antwerpen authorities

We are able, initially, to offer a weekly Eucharist service on a Sunday at 10:30. We are unable to offer Sunday School.

Preparing the church for worship

The altar will be prepared by the celebrant.

The volunteers charged with counting the collection shall wear a face mask, nitrile gloves, and deposit the money in sealed envelopes.

All contact surfaces will be sanitized before and after use.

The service words will be available on a disposable, printed paper sheet. Books will be removed.

Hand sanitizers will be available by income doors.

Face masks must be worn by all over 12 years of age. They will be available where necessary if available from the suppliers.

Pews will be marked in advance to show where seating is permitted. Alternate pews will be out of use. The pews are 3m long so we can seat 2 individuals suitably distanced, or one family on each pew.

Twenty eight (28) individuals can be seated. If family groups come, more can be seated but at the same time we shall ensure the family units are distanced from other worshippers.(Under normal conditions the fire-brigade allow 240 worshippers!) Entry will be via our side door to allow for physical distancing whilst waiting to enter. The waiting area will be clearly marked to ensure physical distancing. Ushers will greet and help worshippers to a marked seat.

Liturgy of Eucharist

There will be no altar party until further notice.

We shall have one cantor who will be at least 5m from the congregation.

Congregational singing will not be allowed.

The priest will wash and sanitize his hands before the Eucharistic prayer.

There will be no collection of alms during the service but at the end. Electronic donations will be encouraged.

The host and wine will be prepared and distributed in accordance with the bishops' guidelines (May 2020, P2).

The people will approach the chancel steps in a single, physically distanced fashion when indicated by an usher. They will return to their seat in a circulation that does not require them to pass those waiting to receive communion. This will be in one kind only- the host. (Please see second document referring to our seating and circulation plan.)

Ending the liturgy

The congregation will be asked to remain seated in their pew until instructed by an usher to leave, starting with the back rows, by the nearest main door.

They will be requested not to congregate outside, but rather leave immediately to avoid blocking exits.

There shall be no meeting between priest(s) and congregation after the service..

Notes to seating and circulation plan

- There are 14 rows of pews on each side of the main aisle.
- We shall use 7 rows each side leaving one whole row empty.
- Each main pew is 2m 97cm long and can seat two (2) individuals, marked X. However a family from the same address may sit on one whole pew marked with X..No other parishioner may sit with them.
- The space between pews that will be in use is 2m 30cm.
- The aisle is 2m 30cm wide
- *If needed*, 5 people can be seated in the additional side pews, marked X.
- The priest is seated 3m 50 from the nearest parishioner.
- The cantor is 5m from the nearest parishioners.

Circulation at communion

- The people will be requested to go up to communion by an usher.
- They will go from one side of the aisle at a time, front to back and return via the side aisle.
- Only when one side is complete will the other side be invited to go up for communion, again returning via the side aisle.
- *If the side aisle pews are used* , the circulation will be similar to that described for the main aisle.

June 5th 2020