



Indian (Malankara) Orthodox Church

Risk Assessment – Visits to Churches for Worship during Covid-19 period

Parish:	St xxxxxx, Indian Orthodox Parish ,XXXXXX	Review Date:	26th June 2020
Responsible Person:	Vicar/ Trustees	Assessed By:	Parish Managing Committee
Residual Risk	Low	Reference:	Diocese Office/PRO

This risk assessment assesses the health risk (of Covid-19) to our members as a result of visiting our congregational worship place. This risk assessment and mitigation actions puts controls in place to manage risks for attendees of worship. The aim of this risk assessment is to safely enable resuming spiritual and worshipping activities by the Indian Orthodox Churches across UK and Ireland regions in line with the easing of Lock down measures during the pandemic period following Government guidelines.

The risk assessment considers and implements all Government and Public Health England guidance and all mitigating measures are derived from this.

Anyone classed as clinically vulnerable/extremely vulnerable under the Government Guidelines should not be travelling to or visiting to Church or any other congregational worship places.

Visit to Church for worship should be controlled and restricted by appointment and a log of attendance will be maintained by the Parish Trustees for monitoring and records.

Social distancing as per govt guidelines should be strictly followed and person to person contact will be avoided. Any materials subject to human contact will be thoroughly cleaned or appropriately quarantined before the contact of the next person. Members of a house hold should be considered as one cluster and can be used to separate a different location to other people in achieving the required distancing.

All personnel including clergies visiting the Church to attend public worship or private prayers should always wear necessary PPE which includes hand gloves, face masks, shoe covers and hand sanitizers. If by any circumstance someone not able to provide it by themselves they may contact the Parish office bearers and request for the PPE prior to enter the Church Premises.

This risk assessment for COVID 19 Pandemic is based on the guidance issued by UK government Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government on 12 June 2020 for safe use of places of worship during the pandemic. As the government guidelines vary from region to region (England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales) and countries, the Parishes should ensure they are following the local rules and regulations and use this risk assessment as a guide/ template to make it fit for purpose. Risk assessment should be a live document and when the lockdown restrictions are varied in any area, the measures should be applied and incorporated into this risk assessment.

A Parish level guidance document should be issued to all members and the Parish trustees will manage the implementation of the guidelines for the use the Church premises. A template for the same will be issued along with this document.

If any Parish is using a building rented or leased out from others for worship, they shall follow and adhere to the Risk assessment and guidelines issued by the building management.

No	Hazard	Activity / Material	Persons that could be harmed	Existing Controls	Responsible person(s) for Action	Proposed Actions / When	Completion Date
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1	Transmission of Covid-19	Clergies and Faithful travelling to and from Church	Clergies, Church Attendees, Members of the Public, Family members of Clergies and Attendees, Attendee's Civil work colleagues	<p>Avoid Church visits where possible, these should not be undertaken unless absolutely necessary.</p> <p>The use of Internet technology such as video recording and live streaming of worship should be considered.</p> <p>If a Church visit is deemed absolutely necessary, the numbers of those attending should be minimal and should be controlled by the Church administration.</p> <p>Avoid public transport and use private vehicle for the individual or members of the family living together for travel to and from the Church</p> <p>Ensure you have an adequate supply of hand sanitiser for your journey to and from the Church</p> <p>Do not travel if you or members of your household are unwell and display COVID-19 symptoms- in this circumstance follow govt guidelines for testing</p>	<p>Attendees/ Vicar/ Trustees (Managing Committee)</p> <p>Vicar/ Trustees (Managing Committee)</p> <p>Attendees</p> <p>Attendees</p> <p>Members</p>	<p>Guidelines will be issued by 01.07.2020</p> <p>Arrangements for Live streaming and video upload will be done by 01 07 2020</p> <p>Prior appointment booking system will be implemented for visiting the Church and attendance will be controlled/ 01.07.2020</p> <p>Only individual or members living together will use the vehicle and cleaning of the vehicle after and before use/ Ongoing</p> <p>Keep personal hygiene and follow hand wash procedures, use face masks.</p> <p>Avoid travel to Church/ Ongoing</p>	
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2	Transmission of Covid-19	Use of Church Building	Priests/ Clergies, Church Attendees, Family members of Clergies and Attendees.	<p>Follow and implement guidelines for social distancing and maintain 2 meters or at least 1+meter distancing in the Church building. Entrance and exit of the building will be restricted through designated doors and will be controlled to one by one</p> <p>Members will be given designated earmarked spaces for worship.</p> <p>Provision of Hand sanitizers, Face masks, wash soaps, warm water etc will be provided for the attendees.</p> <p>Number of available toilets will be restricted Common.</p> <p>Necessary toilet cleaning materials will be available for the use of members after every use of the Toilet.</p>	<p>Trustees/ (Managing committee)</p> <p>Trustees/ (Managing committee)</p> <p>Trustees/ (Managing committee)</p> <p>Trustees/ (Managing committee)</p> <p>Members</p>	<p>Posters and Notices for reminding Social distancing requirements will be displayed/ Entry and Exit from the building will be through different doors and no more than one person will be at any door at any point of time. 01.07.20</p> <p>Prior Allocation of seats will be given to attendees during the time of appointment/ 01.07.20</p> <p>Sufficient quantity of personal hygienic materials and cleaning materials will be provided. Attendees will dispose the face masks before entering the building and use a new face mask and wear shoe covers provided at the entrance before entering the common place of worship. 01.07.2020</p> <p>Toilets will be thoroughly cleaned in the beginning and end of each worship service 01.07.20</p> <p>After every use, toilet seats and common places of the area will be cleaned. This includes frequent</p>	
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				<p>Only limited area of the Church building will be opened for worship. And only minimum amount of furniture will be provided in the worship area</p> <p>Church building will be opened only for worship during restricted planned duration.</p>	<p>Trustees/ (Managing committee) Attendees</p> <p>Vicar/ Trustees (Managing Committee)</p>	<p>disinfection of door handles, push bar and push pads of the doors. 01.07.20</p> <p>Only limited area will be open for attendees to access and rest of the area will be locked off. Chapel(s) will be closed for entering. Only limited number of wooden furniture will be kept in the building as per the number of attendees. 01.07.20</p> <p>No social activities, refreshments or any other functions except liturgical worship will be allowed in the Church building. After the worship service all the attendees should dispersed immediately and no socializing will be encouraged. 01.07.20</p>	
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3	Transmission of Covid-19	Mode and Practise of Worship	Priests/ Clergies, Attendees, Altar Assistants, Families of Clergies Altar Assistants and	<p>Face masks are always used. Choir singing is suspended and individual singing and chanting in low pitch.</p> <p>Social distancing will be maintained</p>	<p>Vicar/ Members</p> <p>Vicar</p>	<p>Attendees, Clergies and Altar Assistants will wear face masks while attending the service. Group singing and chanting will not be done and attendees should sing/ chant /say prayers in low pitch to avoid displacement of aerosols. 01.07.20</p> <p>Maximum three Altar Assistants</p>	
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			Attendees.	<p>in the Altar. Always a minimum 1+meter distance will be maintained in the Altar</p> <p>Ensure that Private Prayer books will be used.</p> <p>Use of Sacramental Objects is controlled and restricted</p>	<p>Altar Assistants</p> <p>Clergies/ Altar Assistants, Members</p> <p>Vicar/ Altar Assistants/ Members</p>	<p>will be permitted at any point of time in the Altar. Personal assistants to Priests and standing with candles near the priest will be avoided. 01.07.20</p> <p>Priests, Attendees and Altar Assistants shall bring prayers books, any other materials for their worship and should bring those back home. These materials should not be left in common places. 01.07.20</p> <p>Only unavoidable sacramental objects will be used. Oil lamp will be removed from the place of worship. Lighting of the candles will not be allowed for attendees Any wooden or metal items including microphones used/ touched will be handled by only one individual on the same day and he should clean it after the use. The same item will be kept in quarantine for next 72 hours before the next use by another person. 01.07.20</p>	
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				<p>One responsible individual will do the Altar setting and sacramental arrangements in the Altar</p> <p>Offertory and money transactions will be avoided and inside the Church building</p>	<p>Vicar</p> <p>Trustees (Managing Committee)/ Members</p>	<p>Altar setting will be done by the Priest by himself prior to worship and no other person will touch the Chalice and all other the sacramental ornaments on the Altar./01.07.20</p> <p>No offertory collection will be taken place as part of the worship. Members should be encouraged to use online money transactions. If unavoidable money can be deposited in a closed envelope which will be quarantined for 72 hours and then will be managed in a controlled manner by the Trustees in strict environment and by using appropriate PPE/ Ongoing</p>	
4	Transmission of Covid-19	Holy Sacraments and Worship	<p>Priests/ Clergies, Attendees, Altar Assistants, Families of Clergies Altar Assistants and Attendees</p>	<p>Person to Person contacts is avoided.</p> <p>Priest blessing on faithful's forehead will not be encouraged.</p>	<p>Altar Assistants/ Attendees</p> <p>Vicar</p>	<p>Kiss of Peace during the Holy Liturgy will be avoided and bowing of heads will be practised 01.07.20/Ongoing</p> <p>Blessing given by the priest by touching will be avoided and instead wooden cross will be used without touching the body of the other person. A general benediction would be considered with the permission of Diocesan Metropolitan for this Pandemic time. 01.07.20</p>	

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				<p>Holy Confession and Holy Absolution is restricted.</p> <p>Holy Communion will be given in unavoidable circumstances in restrictions and with prior agreement.</p>	<p>Vicar/ Members</p> <p>Vicar/ Members</p>	<p>Unless it is very necessary, Holy Confession and Holy Absolution will not be given to faithful. If unavoidable the Priest and the faithful will wear appropriate PPE and face protections to carry out the sacrament. / 01.07.20</p> <p>Unless it is very necessary, Holy communion is not encouraged at these times of the Pandemic. Exceptional situations like palliative care and severe distress conditions, If it is required to be administered, only one person or members from the same family living together can receive Holy Communion in any one day. Necessary care will be taken by the Priest that no body to body or body to material contact is taken place during the administration. / 01.07.20</p>	
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