**St Michael & St George, Aldershot**

***The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces***

**OPENING OF THE CHURCH FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER**

These practices and procedures are designed to provide safety and protection to all who visit the Cathedral for individual prayer. Anyone entering the building will agree to follow the instructions whilst inside.

1. With effect from Thursday, 5th November the Cathedral will be open for individual prayer during the following times only:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 1400hrs-1600hrs

Tuesday, Thursday – 1100hrs-1300hrs

Other times may be added dependent upon steward availability and requirement.

1. The number of people in church at any one time will be limited to 40. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and be able to practice safe distancing.
2. There will be at least two stewards on duty who are there to ensure proper practice and safety measures are in place. Visitors are asked to follow their instructions.
3. Face coverings are mandatory for all, less those who are exempt.
4. On both entering and leaving the Cathedral, and after lighting votive candles, everyone will be required to use the hand sanitiser that is provided.
5. There is a one-way system in place around the building with arrows on the floor to indicate the flow. These must be followed to ensure safe passage for all. The main aisle may be used by keeping to the left in both directions, but if possible (without passing anyone else on the same row) the side aisles should be used to move from the front to the back of the church.
6. Seating that is ‘blocked’ by tape is not to be used. When using a row that is available visitors should leave at least TWO empty seats between them and anyone else occupying the row. Family members from the same household may sit side-by-side. In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel only one person should be seated on each row (apart from family members from the same household). Entrance to the Chapel is via the West end and the exit is past the altar and in to the main body of the Cathedral, always following the direction arrows.
7. The Lady Chapel, Main Sanctuary and Sacristy areas are ‘sterile’ and therefore not open to visitors.
8. There will be no refreshment facilities available during opening hours and the toilets may not be used except for emergencies.
9. All of the systems in place are based on a common sense approach and should be easily understood by all. As individual prayer is about listening and talking to God, conversations with other visitors should only take place at suitably socially-distanced locations in the car park.
10. The stewards will be happy to assist you during your visit. Any questions or observations about the rules that apply to visitors should be addressed to Fr Nick.