St Michael & St George, Aldershot

*The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces*

COMMON PRACTICE

Face coverings were made mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday, 8th August 2020. All those who are attending church must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. A list (albeit not exhaustive) of such exemptions may be found on the Bishopric website, together with the updated guidelines for the celebration of Mass issued by the Bishops’ Conference, from which the following points are taken:

1. During the liturgy readers may remove their face coverings at the lectern to read and should replace them before stepping away from it.

2. Because the people have already acclaimed the presence of the Lord, at the Priest’s Communion, the People’s Communion is distributed in silence with no dialogue between minister and communicant.

3. The priest, and those who are distributing Holy Communion, should wear face coverings when doing so.

4. Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact.

5. The people should approach with arms at “full stretch” so that there is a good distance between themselves and the minister. Their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. Communicants should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their seats.