



# HOLY CROSS CHURCH, Catford

## Liturgy for Housebound

### GREETING

**All:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

**EMHC:** The peace of the Lord be with you. Blessed be God forever.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

### PENITENTIAL RITE

**EMHC:** My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

**All:** I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**EMHC:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD:** EMHC will read the day's Gospel or

**EMHC:** Jesus says: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**EMHC:** Now let us pray together to the Father in the words given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ:

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**EMHC** holds up the Host: **Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**All:** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

EMHC distributes the Precious Body.

### **CONCLUSION**

**EMHC:** Let us pray. (EMHC recites prayer after communion and other prayer(s) for health and healing at his/her option)

**All:** Amen

**EMHC:** May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

**GUIDELINES and PROTOCOLS**  
for  
**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**  
Serving the **HOUSEBOUND**

**Dear Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Communion [EMHC],**

Please Note: The faithful who are ill are deprived of their rightful and accustomed place in the Eucharistic community. In bringing communion to them you represent Christ and manifest faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at the Eucharist. For the sick the reception of communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of support and concern shown by the Christian community for its members who are ill.

EMHC are to attend the Mass on their scheduled day of visitation. This maintains the link between the parish liturgical celebration and the individual.

Try to arrive at church at least fifteen minutes prior to the start of Mass. Quietly enter the Sacristy. Obtain the unconsecrated Hosts from the Sacristan who then places it upon the altar PRIOR to the beginning of Mass. After the Holy Communion during the Mass, go to the altar and receive the pyx from the priest. Have respect and reverence for the presence of Christ. When transporting the Eucharist to the sick, ministers should avoid any activity not in keeping with the reverence due to the Blessed Sacrament. Go directly to the facility or private home that you are visiting.

Ideally the pyx should be carried in a purse or case, kept safe and on your person. Never leave the Eucharist unattended. The Sacrament must never be taken home overnight to be distributed the next day. The Eucharistic Minister should reverently consume any consecrated Hosts that cannot be distributed that same day.

Wash your hands with hand sanitiser and wear a face mask before entering the home of the sick. If needed, you may obtain a bottle of sanitiser from Fr Antony.

Give a small portion of the Host to a person who has difficulty swallowing. The remaining portion of that Host must be reverently consumed by a Catholic who is participating in the prayer or by you as minister of Communion. Wait for the person to swallow the Host. Offer water if necessary.

If the Host is dropped and there are no health concerns, the Host may be picked up and consumed. If the dropped Host presents health concerns or the person removes the Host from his/her mouth, please take it back to Fr Antony. It should be dissolved in water and the water poured into the church sacarium, not down a drain.

Be aware of feelings that may arise when you enter a person's home or room – the person's appearance, hospital equipment, and the environment. When it is difficult to look at the person because of their physical condition, concentrate on their eyes.

If the person does not wish to share Communion at this time, ask if they would like to share in a short blessing prayer.

Keep confidences at all times. Do not make other residents, fellow parishioners, friends and other visitors aware of a resident's situation.

EMHC does not hear confessions. This Sacrament is only to be administered by an ordained priest.

If a patient does ask to see a priest, for whatever the reason, contact the parish office at **020 8698 3672** and leave that person's name, facility and room number, or home address.

**Many thanks for your kind service to the needy. Fr Antony**