



# THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Presbytery

Edge Hill, Wimbledon

London, SW19 4LU

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Dear Parishioner

## On a Personal Note

By Sunday I will have reached Day 12 of self-isolation and I am afraid that all the thousands of little jobs that I set myself to do are still left undone. Every time I intend to tackle one job or another I find myself side tracked. Holy Week is coming and I intend to use it to make a resolution to be more disciplined. We are still waiting for guidelines from the Bishops as to the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. From what I know we will be able to stream the main services which we will be able to celebrate in a restricted form. Times and dates of streaming during Holy Week will be in the notices next weekend. We will endeavour to cover the main ceremonies though in a more reduced way, and, as far as I know, without a congregation.

I hope you are all managing during this very strange time. If anyone needs help or would just like a chat over the phone do let Eleanor our Youth Minister know, or leave your contact details at the parish office and I will pass them on.

I found the clapping on Thursday evening very moving. We were a bit isolated here sitting halfway up the hill, so our clapping was a bit muted. However, the noise from across the valley was really impressive. I found it a very moving experience. It shows that good things can come out of even the darkest of experiences.

Please see below a number of notes and useful links to help us.

Till next week stay safe.

Fr John

## News and Views

### Urbi et Orbi

On the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Pope Francis led a time of prayer from the steps of St Peter's in Rome. We were invited to share this special time with him. It ended with Pope Francis giving his blessing Urbi et Orbi, traditionally given on Easter Sunday. It carries with it a plenary indulgence. If you missed this moving occasion there are many opportunities to link with the Pope's mission if you visit the Missio website <https://missio.org.uk/>

### **Spiritual Communion:**

One of the prayers most relevant to us at this time is a Spiritual Communion which links us to the eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass. One such prayer is:

My Jesus

I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

A longer devotion 'Spiritual Communion' is also attached to this email for download.

### **England the Dowry of Mary:**

On Sunday this week we are invited to join our prayers to those of the other diocese of England and Wales as we rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary. First dedicated by King Richard II. Details of the opportunities of private prayer can be got from [www.behold2020.com](http://www.behold2020.com)

### **Archbishop John:**

A copy of the Archbishop's letter following the PM's address to the nation can be found on the Archdiocese Web page.

### **Streaming of Masses:**

People have experienced difficulties logging on to the streamed Mass. We have changed the schedule so that you can log in 10 minutes before the Mass starts. After all, we don't come to Mass dead on the starting time, do we?!!! If you keep trying, it does eventually connect.

### **Confessions:**

Confessions will only be available after the restrictions on Public Worship are lifted.

### **Funeral Grants:**

The Sacred Heart, Wimbledon, SVP Conference has been donated funds to assist with the cost of funerals for needy families. If you wish to apply for a grant of up to £500 please contact us by email at [presidenta190704@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidenta190704@svp.org.uk) or leave your telephone contact details with the parish office.

We will need to know the name of the deceased person, your relationship/association to them and the name of the priest conducting the funeral. Please state how the funeral is being funded, how the grant would help and to whom it should be paid. Payment will be by cheque. As with all cases of assistance through the SVP, all applications will be dealt with in strict confidence.

### **Prayer Sheets:**

A very good prayer sheet has been developed by the staff of the Bishop's Conference this can be accessed through the Web site of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

### **Finance Committee**

Please read the attached note from the parish finance committee.