

Note to Parish

The Parish Finance Committee met by video conference last Wednesday to review the effects of the church closure on the parish's finances. At the beginning of the meeting Canon John informed us that the Diocese had made a decision to place all paid parish staff on furlough leave for the month of April. This means that they will be paid 80% of their salary under the government's Job Retention Scheme. They continue to have a contract of employment but may not undertake any parish work during this period. The diocese will review the matter in a month.

Our salary bill forms a significant element of our monthly expenses and this decision by the diocese is most welcome. It will help to mitigate loss of income from the church being closed. There is uncertainty about our forecast cash flow but we need to take account of the following:

1. There is a significant loss of income from the first collection each Sunday since there are no services.
2. We currently receive a monthly income of approximately £20,000 through regular standing orders. However, with the great uncertainty of the labour market there will be parishioners who are no longer in a position to continue with those payments. This information will take a while to show in bank statements.
3. There will be no income from halls' lettings and donations for votive candles.
4. There will be some savings in expenses as we have put a number of external contracts on hold.

We have been approached by some parishioners who normally place their donations in the first collection for an alternative means of giving. Unfortunately we are not in a position to handle cash but we encourage any who can to make payments by a bank transfer.

The Parish account details are:

NatWest, Sort Code 60-24-07, Account 33138672.

Please give your surname then initial as a reference. If you have not previously signed a gift aid declaration, please complete one from the website here

<https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=197039> and email a copy to wimbledonaa1@rcaos.org.uk

We are also investigating donating through the website which will enable people to donate by bank card.

EASTER OFFERINGS

We are approaching Holy Week in strange circumstances with the joy of Easter to come. You will be aware that the collections at Easter are for the benefit of our devoted priests. This collection forms a significant element of the priests' annual income. The priests will also lose regular income from mass stipends and stole fees. Clearly, there will be no public services and so the committee are encouraging as many parishioners as possible to show their appreciation. This can be done by making a bank transfer as above but using the following reference 'eo' followed by your surname and initial. Example 'eowoodwardcd' will show that my donation is for the Easter offering.

Chris Woodward

On behalf of the Parish Finance Committee

28 March 2020