



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Presbytery

Edge Hill, Wimbledon

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NEWS and VIEWS 20

9 August 2020

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC MASS

We are severely limited to the numbers able to attend each Mass. We can accommodate 72 parishioners in the church and 70 in an overflow in the Upper Hall. Places at all Masses in the church and at the overflow in the hall will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Several seats will be retained for the elderly and their carers in the church. Stewards will be available to help parishioners to their seats. May I remind you that the bishops have withdrawn the obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday, so for some it may be better to attend a weekday Mass for the time being.

Track and Trace

When you arrive for Mass you will be given a short enquiry form provided by the NHS *Test and Trace*. These forms must be completed and returned to one of the stewards at the door. They will be retained for 21 days and then destroyed. Additional forms will be available after all Masses for you to take home and complete anytime you visit the church during the week.

Those attending Mass in the church are asked to keep to the seats open for parishioners. The church is marked out to ensure that you are safely in a 2m distance from other worshippers.

Face Coverings

Following the most recent instructions from the government face coverings are now mandatory in Places of Worship. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the church (or in the Upper Hall) for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. The stewards have spare masks available at the back of the church in case you have forgotten to bring one with you. Thank you for your co-operation in this.

Priests in the sanctuary, provided they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation, do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion. Other ministers in the sanctuary should wear face coverings and remain socially distant from the celebrant.

The Mass and Holy Communion REVISED

I am grateful for the suggestions which have helped to make the church more secure for the congregation. I encourage you to follow the following procedures at communion time. There will be no prayers of the faithful and no sign of peace. The biggest change is in the way we

receive Holy Communion. Just before his own communion the priest will raise first the host and then the chalice. He presents them to the congregation with the words '*The Body of Christ*', '*The Blood of Christ*' to which the congregation answers '*Amen*' to each act of faith. The priest then receives his communion and the congregation moves to the altar in a single line up the central isle to receive communion in silence. Please join the line for communion **from the back**, do not try to join the line at the top where communion is being distributed. The communicants should unloop their face covering just before receiving communion. Communion will be distributed in the hand only; you are encouraged to hold your hands at full length to receive the host. Any request to receive communion on the tongue will be refused. After consuming the Sacred Host please replace the face covering before moving back to your seat by the side isle.

The collection will not take place during the Mass.

We are going digital and have installed two '*Digital Collection Plates*' at the back of the church for donations. As well as being convenient, card donations reduce administration, are more secure and currently safer given hygiene concerns.

The terminals enable donations via credit or debit cards with contactless and Chip & PIN.

All the donations can be gift aided but, even if you have already made a gift aid declaration for the Sacred Heart Church, you will need to register the card you are using for *Mydona*.

You only need to register a card once, either on the Digital Collection Plate or online via sacredheartwimbledon.mydona.com. Registering your card online will save time at the digital collection plate as it will recognise your card. You will have to make a minimum donation of £1 to work through the gift aid registration process.

We will continue to collect cash donations (boxes for cash donations are still available near the exit points of the church where the contribution can be left) but we encourage you to consider using this new facility instead or, for regular giving, to set up a standing order to the parish account (this is still the most efficient form of giving).

The screen on the terminal currently offers a choice of amounts £1, £2, £5, £10, £20, £45 but they will accept other amounts including those over the contactless threshold with chip and pin.

Alternatively, you can also donate online through the parish website.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude for your continued generosity at a time of restricted finances.

Times of Services

Mass will be celebrated for 72 people each day at 10am with additional evening Masses at 6.30pm on Monday and Friday. Masses on Sunday will be at 10am, 12noon, 5pm and 8pm. If numbers require it, we will increase the number of Masses both on Sundays and weekdays. Confessions will be on Saturdays at 10.30 - 11.30am and 1.30 - 2pm.

The church will be open for private devotions Monday - Friday from 11am - 2pm. There will be exposition during that time. There will be no private prayer on Saturday and Sunday, though the church will be open for confessions and services.

Music at the Sunday Mass (Non-Congregational)

No hymns at Mass this week. We are only allowed incidental music and Cantors responses at appropriate times during the Mass.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Please pray for those who are sick; We pray for all affected by the Coronavirus and for Peter Brown, Samar Staussi, Lisa and Moses Mendoza, Harriette Cahill, Olga Herbert, Catherine Gapp, Peter Kosciolk, Brendan Hollingsworth, Ian Parr, David Carrier, Maria Keaveney-Jessiman, Annette Wheatley, Paul Jong, Sheila Soodin, Maureen Searle, Kieran Walsh, Paul Saunders, Carol Donnelly, Damji Vadhia, Manjula Topno, Alina Hancock, Lalita Nagar, Cath O'Neill, Andrew Tan, Tom Searle, Donald Derx, Electa Almeida, Philip Chapell, Alec Smith, Alfred Quantrill, Edward Brauer, Michael Paice and Oscar Carrier-Sippy.

We pray for those who have died recently, Michael Bourne, Pauline Hearn and Baby Cheuck, and for all those who have died of the Coronavirus.

The funeral for Baby Cheuck will be held on Wednesday 12 August, we include Baby Cheuck's parents in our prayers.

The funeral for Michael Bourne will be on Thursday 13 August.

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Sister Soledad Gonzalez, Charles Forrester, Zita Braganza, Joan Osborn, George Bertuchi, Vincent Patton, Peter Bernard Creely, Carl MacCarthy, John Francis Travers.

MASS BY PHONE

For those who do not have internet and cannot come to church you can listen to Mass on the phone from St Mary's Cathedral, Middleborough. The number to ring is 01642 130120. Calls are charged at a local rate and free if included in your minutes.

HOSPITAL CONTACTS

If you or a member of your family are admitted to one of the local hospitals do please let the hospital catholic chaplain know. Our main hospital is St Georges and the chaplain Fr Mark Higgins can be contacted on 020 8725 3069.

OUR SACRISTAN RETIRES

After many years of faithful service in the sacristy, I am sad to announce, that Michael Hamilton has offered his resignation. He is so associated with the workings of the church and the sacristy that he will be greatly missed. Hopefully, when this strange time is over, we will be able to suitably show our appreciation of Michael's work for the parish over the years.

Michael's successor will be Paul Davis who for many years has been our Master of Ceremonies. I am very grateful to Paul for accepting to take on this responsibility.

Every blessing on you all.

Canon John