



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

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Sacred Heart Presbytery
Edge Hill, Wimbledon
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NEWS and VIEWS 30

18 OCTOBER 2020

Volunteers:

Alison has asked me to say a big thank you to all those who have volunteered to act as stewards to enable the church to be kept open for Mass and for private prayer. Over 25 have offered to help. This is a great response to our request for more help. If you would like to help in future you can contact Alison Lobo on the following addresses. radar1972@hotmail.com , mobile 07711583414 . Every little helps!

On Friday we had the last group of children on the 1st Communion Programme making their first communion. I would like to thank Kelly and her team of catechists who have worked so hard to prepare the children this year and who have managed to arrange the reception for the children in spite of the constant rearrangements. I would also like to thank the parents who have done so much this year in supporting their children on the programme. My thanks to you all.

TIMES OF SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

Mass will be celebrated each day at 10am and 6:30pm from Monday to Saturday. Masses on Sunday will be at 6:30pm Saturday and Sunday at 10am, 12noon, 5pm and 8pm. **Confessions will be on Saturdays at 10:30am to 11:30am and 3:30 to 4:00pm**

REINSTATING THE 6:30pm MASS:

We have now reinstated the 6:30pm Mass each evening Monday to Saturday. The Mass is open to all parishioners. Everyone from our parish community is welcome at this mass and it will be in accordance with our normal Sunday and weekday safety protocols

The church will be open for private devotions **Monday to Friday from 11am to 2:00pm** unless there is a funeral Because of the weddings and baptisms there will be no exposition and private prayer on Saturday and Sunday, though the church will be open for confessions, and services.

Please remember that numbers of guests at funerals are limited to 30 and 15 for weddings. So, unless invited by the family to attend the service please do not attend funeral services. The services are normally streamed.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING THE CHURCH DURING COVID

Since this Saturday morning, the London Borough of Merton and hence the parish, now fall within the government's 'Local Covid Alert Level – High'. Fortunately, this does not change the arrangements for places of worship. I would however ask all those attending Mass to follow the stewards' instructions on entering the church and in particular to wait in their pews to be invited to go up to receive Holy Communion. It is very important for all that we observe social distancing whilst queuing to receive.

May I remind you that face coverings must now be worn in places of worship whenever you visit. The stewards do have spare masks available at the back of the church if you have forgotten to bring one with you today. Thank you for your co-operation.

During the week Mass will be said for 72 people each day at 10am and at 6:30pm on Monday and Friday. If numbers require, we will increase the number of masses both on Sundays and weekdays.

We have arranged for an overflow of parishioners to join a streamed Mass in the upper hall when Holy Communion can also be received. With the numbers at the 10 am Sunday Mass increasing, please be prepared to be directed to the upper hall if asked to do so by the stewards.

The collection will not take place during the Mass. There are two contactless card readers at the back of the church and we encourage you to use those to make your weekly offering if you are not doing so by standing order. You can make offerings from £1 upwards. You simply tap the amount you want to contribute and then touch your card on the reader. If you wish to register for Gift Aid, press the relevant button and register your details. You only need to register once. After that each contribution you make with that card will be paired with your Gift Aid Registration.

Alternatively, there is the facility to donate online through the parish website. As always, I must thank you all for your continued generosity at a time of restricted finances.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Please pray for those who are sick; We pray for all affected by the Coronavirus and Samar Staussi, Tony Randall, Angela Byrne, 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, Patricia and Harold Codd, Edward Brauer, Peter Brown, Cecilia Wiggins, Michael Paice, Oscar Carrier-Sippy, Kim Perrott McGroartyk, Michael Orbell and Violet Jones

We pray for those who have died including all killed by the Coronavirus, We pray for Ashley Nicholas, Esther Murphy, Christine Fellows, Patrick Doyle and Andrea Ferrante.

We remember all whose anniversary occurs at this time : Francie McHugh, Jack Alden, George Harris, Joseph Moran, Sr Mary Bookey SSA, Harry Carney, Anthony Kennedy, Angela Mary Hall, Mary Kearns, Mary Foley, Aileen Bunce, Innocent Ferreira, Vincent Danil and Louis Salole.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace amen

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 0208 725 3069.

FAMILIES IN NEED

If you are in need of help or know of a family who is in need, please contact The Sacred Heart Conference of SVP, in confidence, either through the website https://www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/Groups/290592/SVP_The_Society.aspx or phone the presbytery 020 8946 0305 and ask to be put in touch with SVP.

SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMS:

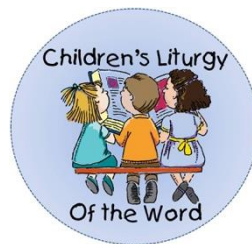
Applications forms for all Catholic Schools carry a paragraph needing a recommendation from the local parish priest supporting the application. Usually this would give me an opportunity to meet parents when they come along with their forms to get them signed. This year because of the threat of the virus I am unable to meet parents as I am in the category needing shielding.

We have considered different ways in which we can work around the problem of completing the forms without getting too close to the parents. Each school will distribute the application forms when requested. The forms, when completed by parents will be handed to the school by a set date identified by the school. After 72 hours the forms will be transferred to the presbytery for Canon John to sign. After completion of the signing of the forms by Canon John, they will be returned to the school. Two reminders only forms fully completed will be accepted by Canon John for signing and, no forms presented after the closing date advised by each school will be accepted for signing.

WE'RE BACK! ZOOMALONGADINGDONG

The Edge Hill Players online variety show, will be streaming on Friday October 30th at 7pm. Go to our website, edehillplayers.com, and follow the link. You can watch it then [and don't miss out on the countdown!] or download later. Edge Hill Players have been working to cheer you up as the nights draw in. ZOOMALONGADINGDONG is a variety show that you can watch from the comfort of your own home. Performers have been sending in their turns on phones and iPads and the show is being put together professionally. With a cast ranging from 3 to 87, there's something for everyone - songs, dancing, jokes, limericks, recitations, etc. etc. There's even an excerpt from the next Panto, ALADDIN, which is written and ready to go - probably sometime next year[ish].

Streaming at 7pm on FRIDAY OCTOBER 30TH - SEE YOU THERE!



Dear Parents,

While it seems Children's Liturgy will not resume in person for some time, we have found an alternative resource for you to use with your children from home. CAFOD have produced a virtual Children's Liturgy which can be accessed via their website or the following link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Many thanks,

The Children's Liturgy team

WALKING PRAYERFULLY

We are a small group of parishioners which meets about once a month for prayerful walking on Wimbledon Common or Richmond Park.

If you would like to join us for a walk **THIS SUNDAY 18 October** on Wimbledon Common, please meet us **outside the Hand in Hand pub at 9am.**

We walk slowly, not always on paths, in prayer, keeping off the main paths and busy areas and sometimes on uneven ground. Suitable clothing and shoes recommended. The group will be organised to comply with social distancing. It would be helpful if you could let us know you are coming.

Contact: clarehobart3@gmail.com or 07906 081976

ELEANOR'S MARATHON

Eleanor our Youth Minister wishes to thank all the parishioners who supported her fund raising for CAFOD by completing the virtual London marathon. We say 'virtual' but Eleanor completed the marathon by walking from Hampton Court Palace to Tower Bridge in 7 hrs 50 mins. With her effort and your generosity, she raised over £1,000. Well done Eleanor!

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD OF CHURCH CLEANERS

We are blessed to have a beautiful warm and welcoming Church

We are a team of men and women, friendly and dedicated cleaners. We either work independently or in pairs responsible for a designated area of the Church. You are most welcome to join our friendly social team preferably on Mondays after Mass at 10 a.m. or any day convenient to you. We are still cleaning under Covid rules. Contact: Anne Remedios: anneremedios@outlook.com or 0208 946 3653

PARISH FLOWER GROUP

Lockdown came during Lent, a time in the churches year when flowers are not permitted in the church, except for Mothering Sunday, so a quiet time for our team of volunteers.

However, lockdown of the Church came just two days before Mothering Sunday and the flower group found itself with an immediate challenge. The speed of the lockdown meant that we found ourselves with 1000 fresh daffodils made into 200 bunches ready for the 9.45am Family Mass on 22nd March, which because of the restrictions was not going to be celebrated. We could not let the flowers go to waste. A couple of phone calls to the Sacred Heart School and we were able to deliver all the flowers to the school, for the children, just in time for their last day of school as lockdown began. We hope very much that the children and the parents enjoyed the flowers.

Easter came along and access to the church was still restricted to the clergy only. Again after a few phone calls a large vase of beautiful Easter Lilies were left at the door of the Sacristy for Canon John to place under the altar in time for the Easter celebrations, one of the many additional tasks he has had to undertake in lockdown.

As lockdown has eased and access to the church has increased, four of the team have been taking it in turn to provide fresh vases of flowers for the sanctuary, still limiting our time in the church and working alone to reduce risk. We are now working to bring more of our wonderful volunteers together, within the Covid guidelines, to help bring the beauty of flowers to the celebrations taking place in the church once again. For more information contact Patricia Turner 020 8542 4778 or email patricia_turner41@hotmail.com

WASHING AND REPAIRING THE COTTAS AND CASSOCKS for the servers to wear at Mass. Mending and repairing Vestments and garments worn or used at Mass. A small group of Parishioners take care of these tasks when necessary. All very basic domestic tasks – if you feel that you could help with these please contact sadiesmith3@talktalk.net or call 020 8946 5198 – with many thanks.

WELCOMING

The Parish is the family of the Church – are we a hospitable Parish?
Do we make people feel wanted, comfortable, valued, noticed, feel at home - at all times, not just at the door of the Church?

This is the responsibility of all of us, regardless of age, race or colour – if we communicate friendship and welcome to all the people we meet then “they will know that we are Christians by our love”. We are all needed and wanted. Jesus makes us all welcome no matter what we look like or how we lead our lives. By greeting the person you don’t know with a smile and a listening ear you may find that you have more in common than you ever expected. There is one thing we do share already - being member of this Parish Community, whether just for one day or for many years makes no difference. Just now we need more people to help us keep the church open for Mass and private prayer.

UPDATE ON RE-OPENING THE PARISH HALLS

The Parish is now in a position to re-open the halls for activities that are permitted under the Government’s COVID-19 restrictions, beginning with the Lower Hall and the Lounge. Our risk assessment has been approved by the Diocese and we have put in place a range of measures to make the halls “COVID-19 secure”.

If you wish to use the halls you will need to make a booking by emailing thelma@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk and ensure you comply with the parish risk assessment. Links to the checklists setting out what measures the parish is putting in place, and what measures event organisers will need to take is available on the [home page](#) of the parish website. If you run a parish group and would like to discuss how you can get it up and running again, either in person or online, please contact sarah.tobin@btconnect.com

Rule of Six: We have received several questions about how the rule of six will affect events in the parish halls. This depends on the type of event.

For social activities, the Government tightened up the guidance on 1 October. The Government guidance reads: “COVID-secure community facilities are permitted to hold social groups, clubs and activities in groups of no more than 6. Community facilities can host multiple groups of 6, subject to capacity, but groups must not mix socially or form larger groups. However, we strongly advise that activities where there is a significant likelihood of groups mixing

and socialising (and where it will be difficult to prevent mingling and therefore breaking the law) should not take place in a community facility.”

For **support groups**, “gatherings of groups of up to 15 (subject to capacity)” are permitted “if organised by a business, charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution or a public body to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support to its members or those who attend its meetings.”

For **meetings**: Government guidance says “We continue to recommend that where meetings can take place digitally without the need for face-to-face contact, they should continue to do so.”

Activities for **children and young people** are permitted, subject to specific guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak> and, for youth <https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

Indoor performances to socially distanced audiences can take place if in line with the performing arts guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts> . Community facilities must not allow singing in groups of more than 6, dancing, or music over certain volumes.

In all cases, users of COVID-19 secure facilities such as the parish halls should maintain social distancing between households and follow the familiar requirements regarding hand hygiene, face coverings and track and trace. Full details are set out in the parish risk-assessment.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO

In this difficult time of the COVID pandemic, a lot of very good things have been happening across the parish and we want to thank all the kind and selfless people and celebrate those who have been shopping, phoning and visiting others since lockdown started six long months ago in March.

Every blessing on you all.

Canon John