

SITUATION REGARDING SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

In common with the other bishops of England and Wales, Bishop Declan has issued a decree in light of the current Covid-19 situation. Within this decree it is clear that:

- The obligation of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed until further notice.
- The faithful may choose one of the following alternatives to attending Sunday Mass:
 - Taking part may include watching a Sunday Mass online, or on television, and so receive Holy Communion spiritually; OR
 - Reflecting on the Sunday Liturgical text, reading the Bible or saying the Rosary

Public Mass has resumed in our churches, although as stated above there is no obligation to attend. When attending Mass there is limited capacity and other Covid-19 guidelines are implemented. There may also be limited opportunities for private prayer.

A possible form of prayer for use when Mass cannot be publicly celebrated can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/No-Mass-A4.pdf>. The following prayer for Spiritual Communion may be useful.

Spiritual Communion: Prayer of Saint Alphonsus

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.*

Sunday and daily Mass readings can be found at <https://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>. Sunday Mass and weekday Mass from Clifton Cathedral is available every day at 9:30am on our diocesan website www.cliftondiocese.com. Celebrations from Rome can also be found on 'Vatican Media Live' on YouTube. Our Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk is also a source for details of celebrations in our country and beyond.

OTHER INFORMATION

While the parish administration continues, access to the parish office is restricted to appointment only. For those matters normally dealt with by the parish office please use the parish email or telephone 0784 249 5988 (Tuesday to Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm). The normal parish telephone number should be used to contact Father Gary.

All parish groups and programmes are suspended until further notice.

There will continue to be a weekly newsletter available on the parish website. Please make the details of the newsletter known to those who may not access the website.

Prayer is always important. Even when we cannot be physically close, prayer unites us. As well as traditional prayers known to us there are also resources online: www.prayasyougo.org offers daily meditative prayer which some may find useful.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: There is still no indication when it will be possible to prepare children for First Holy Communion or begin the programme for Confirmation in the normal way. If any parent or young person is particularly concerned about receiving these sacraments, they are welcome to discuss the situation with Father Gary.

Baptisms and Marriages cannot take place in the usual way at this time. For more information contact Father Gary or Deacon Steve.

Funerals may be celebrated within strict regulations. Arrangements may be made for a Mass *in memoriam* when congregations are allowed to gather safely.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact Father Gary in any serious need.

Pastoral Visits by clergy or lay people cannot take place in the normal way at present. Father Gary is happy to speak with people by telephone.

Parish Finances: Although public Masses have resumed, and there will be a collection at the end of the weekend Masses, we are encouraged to use methods which avoid physical cash if possible. Those who currently do not contribute via standing order may like to consider the following:

- Set up a standing order via online banking. Please contact the parish for the necessary details.
- Donate via the 'Paypal' button on the parish website. Donations can be gift-aided if applicable. You do not need your own paypal account to use this service. We believe that the cost to the parish for donating in this way is 1.4% and 20p per donation.

These methods are for donations to the parish. They are not for second collections, some of which will continue to be collected after Masses, nor for Father Gary's Christmas Offering.

Please speak with Father Gary regarding these or other aspects of parish life or sacramental celebration.