



Parish of St Marie and St Joseph

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7th November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you to those volunteers who attended the meetings last weekend. Our parish was due to open this coming Monday (9th November) for public Mass, but due to the new national lockdown, this has had to be put on hold.

It is sad that this continuing Eucharistic fast is being imposed upon the lay faithful, but the Lord will not allow anybody who desires Him to be deprived of His grace. Please continue to make your daily acts of spiritual communion and you can be sure that Jesus will draw near in a special way.

The new restrictions prohibit the meeting in church for public worship, which means we can only open for private prayer. Therefore, both St Marie's and St Joseph's will be open for private prayer starting from Sunday 15th November.

The opening times are:

St Joseph's will be open on Sundays from 12.30pm until 1.30pm

St Marie's will be open on Sundays from 11am until 1pm

If it proves to be popular, we can then open on other days too. Let us see how things go.

If you would like to be a steward at either church, just turn up on the day. There will be a rota for the following weeks. Stewards will be required to give a quick wipe down of the benches afterwards.

November is the Month of the Holy Souls. Mass will be offered for the whole of this month for your deceased relatives and loved ones. Please make a list and pop it in an envelope, along with your offering. Please clearly mark it as November Holy Souls. Envelopes will also be available at both churches to collect. Please post through the presbytery door at St Marie's, or leave with a steward.

Let us use this time wisely to deepen our prayer life and to continue to pray and fast for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

God bless.

Fr Foley



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Conference on the National Lockdown

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Today, Parliament passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2nd December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings.

Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Please refer to the Regulations (for places of worship see paragraph 18) and associated Guidance.

Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: *'Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity'* (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need.

This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President