

St Ann's Roman Catholic Church
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24th July 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ann's Parish,

May the peace of Christ be with you. I hope that you and your friends and family are well and pray for all those whose families have been affected directly or indirectly by COVID-19.

The Government instructed that Catholic Churches in England can resume collective acts of worship from 4 July 2020. The Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England gave their instructions. The following guidelines are worth adhering for the **CELEBRATION OF MASS, REOPENING OF CHURCHES and ADMINISTRATION OF SACRAMENTS AND OTHER LITURGIES:**

- Given there is no Sunday obligation, we need to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.
- **Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.**
- When we come to Mass, for the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.
- One of our Bishops in his Cathedral will be celebrating special Mass every Thursday at 7pm for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff.
- The Government's Guidance for the safe use of places of worship from 4 July has set up 'Test and Trace service' to manage the risk of the virus re-emerging. St. Ann's Parish will keep temporary record of those who attend Mass or another service in the church from the 4 July: the name of the person / household group, a note of a suitable method for Test and Trace staff to make contact, i.e. a mobile phone number, email address, other phone number, or postal address. At St. Ann's Parish stewards record the relevant details as each person arrives church for each Mass and retained securely for 21 days.
- **As there will be restrictions on the number of people allowed in the church, several members of our parish will still need to remain at home while others are shielding or self-isolating.** Therefore, streaming daily weekday Masses and weekend Masses (the Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm and the Sunday morning 10:30 Mass) will continue to be available via Facebook and YouTube channels, including all previous Masses are archived in these channels: **YouTube: St Ann's RC Church Kingston Hill: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkyb_uFvSdr2Q9ElvGJONQ>.** **Facebook: St Ann's RC Church Kingston Hill <<https://www.facebook.com/St-Anns-RC-Church-Kingston-Hill-100834058346038>>.**
- Liturgies for weddings, Confessions, Funerals, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will also now be permissible from 4 July, but with limited numbers and hygiene/social-distancing measures in place. For further information, please see these links and contact Father Michael directly as well as please do check our website regularly for further directives.
- For more, please read via the following links and they are also available from our website: **CBCEW <<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>> For the Archdiocese of Southwark's directives, please click this link: <<http://www.stanns-kingstonhill.org.uk/docs/Archdiocese%20of%20Southwark%2026th%20June%202020.pdf>>.**

VOLUNTEERING & CHARITABLE WORK: We have previously brought your attention to the needs of our neighbour towards which we need to respond by all the means open to us. I would like to specially thank all who are already volunteering to help the needy by providing company by telephone, by doing or delivering shopping and/or medicines. There is a continuing need to donate to the food banks and we would urge you to support Kingston Foodbank via their website on <https://localgiving.org/charity/kingstonfoodbank/> or your local Foodbanks.

ST MARK'S GOSPEL: In this the Year of the Word of God, we promised Archbishop John to read the Gospel of Mark and the Parish Council has obtained a few hundred pocket-sized Catholic editions of the Gospel of Mark. Some parishioners have already collected their copy. Please find the booklet enclosed in this letter. If you are in a position to donate towards our costs, please see the various methods of donating to the parish below.

OFFERTORY DONATIONS: Since the abrupt cessation of church services due to the implementation of a national lockdown, we have had little or no parish income since the end of March. We do still have to meet the costs of running the church, paying the bills, clearing the existing backlog and carrying out any major/ minor repairs to church, hall or presbytery. If families are in a position to do so, we encourage each family to donate a minimum amount of £8 each week and that this be done through Standing Order. **If you are a UK tax-payer, and are not already on the Gift Aid scheme, please kindly complete the enclosed Gift Aid form. This allows the Church to reclaim the tax you paid on the money you donated, and therefore increases the value of your donation.**

The different ways of helping the parish financially are: by cheque, bank transfer, standing order and our JustGiving Account. Furthermore, money can also support our parish through Easy Fund Raising when every time you buy something on-line. It's a really simple process! Just click on easyfundraising. Click on the red button 'Support us for free' and register by way of Facebook or your email address. The details of our Parish Bank Account are:

- **Natwest Bank, BIC NWBK GB 2L, IBAN GB05 NWBK 6050 0179 1244 29, Account number: 79124429. Branch sort code: 60-50-01.**
- **JustGiving account: <<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stannskingstonhill>>.**

We pray our parishioners come forward at this hour of need. We understand the general economic climate and people's worries about their own financial plight. We would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have already donated and are planning to donate to the parish at this difficult and challenging time. May God reward you abundantly.

SAFEGUARDING: We urge you to refer to the section on Safeguarding and Data Protection on our website: <www.stanns-kingstonhill.org.uk>.

KINDNESS: And finally, let us be kind! This has been a long and challenging time for us all. Let us celebrate the wonderful acts of kindness that we have witnessed and remember to care for, be kind and be patient with each other and with ourselves, either in person or on social media. Let us remember that we are each of us God's children and we are each made in the image of God.

Please let us continue to pray for one another, for the sick and housebound, for those who left us, those who care for us and all who have asked us to pray for them and all who need our prayers.

May Almighty God, His Mother and St. Ann heal, strengthen, protect and bless us.

Fr. Michael Sileshi

St Ann's Parish Council and Fr. Michael Sileshi