



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

28TH JUNE 2020

Ss PETER AND PAUL, Apostles

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Sharon Bowden
Mike Guthrie

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator
Seminarist

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to *"do this in memory of me."* We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return

immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal.'

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you 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 return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. 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. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

"As I have loved you," said the Lord Jesus, *"so you must love each other."* (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ

- ✠ Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
- ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool
- ✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
- ✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS' MESSAGE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN CHISWICK? Fr Michael writes:

We are very much hoping to provide from Saturday 4th July TWO Masses a day and FIVE on Sunday. However, social distancing without face masks means the church can admit only **48 attendees at each Mass**. It is expected that the diocese will provide a ticketing service for our website and if so we'll have 24 tickets available for booking online for each Mass. The other 24 places will be available on a first come first served basis with the hope particularly that those without internet might be able to return to Mass. The times of Masses are determined by the scarcity (and generosity) of volunteers: if we had more volunteers we could have more evening Masses. As well as each Mass having to be stewarded, after each Mass the church must be disinfected! Therefore there can be no time for private prayer between the Masses. Monday to Friday Masses will be at 11.30am and 12.30pm; on Saturday, Masses will be at 11.30am and 6.30pm with private prayer from 3.00pm to 5.00pm; on Sunday Masses will be at 8.30am, 9.45am, 11.00am, 12.15pm and 6.30pm. This is our intention but if we cannot support it with parishioners' volunteering, we will have to reduce it without notice. Please refrain from coming to Mass more than once a fortnight! **Please visit the parish website to volunteer and for the latest details: www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org.uk**

Ss PETER AND PAUL

Sat 27/6	St. John Southworth	•Michael O'Donnell •Caroline Thomas	RIP RIP
Sun 28/6	Ss PETER & PAUL	•Maureen Marsden •People of the Parish living and deceased/ and Princess Margaret	INT INT/ RIP
Mon 29/6	Feria	•Karen Lynch •Attracta O'Rourke	SICK RIP
Tues 30/6	Feria	•Liam McKiernan •Caroline Thomas	RD RIP
Wed 1/7	DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL	•Antonio Cattini •Bernard Nienhaus	RIP RIP
Thurs 2/7	Feria	•Michael O'Shaughnessy – Birthday •Frontline NHS & Care Home Workers; the sick & their families	RIP INT
Fri 3/7	ST THOMAS	•Padraig Henderson •Joan Zohaddi	RIP RIP
Sat 4/7	Feria	•Michael Frederick •Lieutenant Ann Healey	RIP ANN

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthoy, Fr. Noel O'Boylan, Celine Duignan, Andy Cronin, Eulalie Raymond, Jim O'Grady, Greta Gribben, Jim Ryan, Mike O'Farrel, Bridget Hayden, Alaina Embling, Hannah Thomas, Lauren, Anna and Joseph Mullan, Ewa Blonska, Phoebe Rodriguez, John Moylan, Cyril McKeefrey, Wanda Jeziorska, together with all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Kathleen Curran and James O'Brien. May they rest in peace.

THANK YOU! TO THE STEWARDS AND CLEANERS – Because of the generosity of the 50 or so volunteers enabling the church to have been open two hours a day last week, over 1,000 people have come into the church for private prayer in the first week of opening, and many of them expressed their own gratitude. *Thank you!*

FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEK – As next Sunday 5th July is our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food for our foodbank (which is very short of stock and funds) parishioners already intending to be out at exercise or shopping may leave food all this week during office hours at the presbytery door, ring the bell and the food will be brought inside. On Monday 6th July it will be delivered to the foodbank together with any cash donations in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox.

LENT PROJECT TOTAL NEARLY £20,000! – In what is an amazing testimony of parishioners' generosity in the face of the lockdown and the virus, the Lent Project appeal, which annually runs from Lent to Pentecost, has now been closed and the totals sent away. We had three charities to benefit from Lenten alms: the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supporting projects in the Westminster Diocese received £3,152.88; the Cardinal Hume Centre, supporting homeless youth in London, received £3,371.63; and our overseas' charity, Friends of the Holy Land, received £6,251.28, with a further £100 after we had closed the appeal and £70 Gift Aid. This would have been a fine total in the lockdown circumstances of £12,945.79 but for some other generosity. Some wealthy patrons of Friends of the Holy Land had agreed to double any donation to the charity up until Pentecost Sunday. We therefore ensured that our £6,251.28 was received in good time and the charity confirmed it qualified for being doubled by their own patrons to £12,502.56! The total received by the charities' beneficiaries is **£19,197.07**.

PARISH ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC UNION – Our parish has become the first in the country to have a formal association with The Catholic Union www.catholicunion.org.uk and many more will follow where there is shared interest. Fr Michael much recommends going to the website to sign up for their news briefings directly emailed completely free of charge. The news from parliament is always interesting if often rather worrying with initiatives to challenge the common good.

GUNNERSBURY NOTES

and

GROVE PARK NOTES

With the Government's allowing churches to re-open for private prayer, it might be thought all three of our parochial churches could re-open just as before the virus. This is not the case. Any re-opening of a church has to be accompanied by stringent terms and conditions pertaining to social distancing, sanitising and cleaning, subject to objective standards and external scrutiny, without which churches are not allowed to open. Meeting these terms and conditions relies entirely on many volunteers as can be seen in the arrangements for Our Lady of Grace and St Edward's Church being open from Monday for just two hours a day every day and four hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Stewards must ensure social distancing and sanitising; cleaners must give a full domestic clean of the church each day after it closes. This is very generous volunteering! **These terms and conditions will also apply from next weekend as well when churches may restart public liturgies such as Mass and Holy Hours, provided they meet the standards of being 'Covid secure'. Churches cannot open if volunteers are not in place.** For the moment therefore St Dunstan's Gunnersbury and St Joseph's Grove Park must remain closed as eligible volunteers in sufficient numbers have not yet informed the Chiswick Parish Office of availability. Please remember that to be eligible for volunteering, applicants must be in good health, under 70 years of age, and have no underlying health conditions.

BAPTISMS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION –

Even with Masses again for restricted numbers from 4th July, the return to large and festal occasions such as First Holy Communion or Confirmation Masses is more distant. Baptisms, too, are still some way off but the parish would contact those families who has booked a baptism during the lockdown period as soon as we have information allowing baptisms to take place. Rescheduling the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses is going to have to wait for as near a return to normality as possible perhaps in the Autumn. The parish will swiftly contact parents and guardians of existing candidates for these sacraments as soon as authority is given.

CENTERING PRAYER – In the current lockdown the Centering Prayer group has found a new way to convene via the internet platform Zoom. The group will now be meeting fortnightly on Mondays at 7.30pm. The next meeting will be 29th June so if you would like to join please phone or email John O'Brien who will be happy to assist: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

COMBONI SISTERS' MOTHER GENERAL MAKES APPEAL –

The Comboni Sisters on Chiswick Lane would like to draw parishioners' kind attention to their Mother General's "Emergency COVID-19 Appeal Caring for the Elderly Comboni Sisters", <https://www.combonisc.co.uk/community/> The Comboni Sisters Nursing Homes in the Veneto region of northern Italy care for about 400 elderly and sick Missionary Sisters from all countries who have returned from giving their active lives in the service of others on the missions. Covid-19 has had a devastating effect in the area and aside from the tragic multiple premature deaths of retired Sisters, the exceptional expenses incurred in caring for the others through the pandemic has affected the Order's global budget for mission. Mother General Sr Luigina Coccia is appealing for prayer and for donations to help in this situation. Details on how to donate can be found by opening the above link where Sr Luigina's video can be viewed. The Chiswick Comboni Sisters, who have been praying for parishioners throughout the pandemic, say "As missionaries, we greatly appreciate every gesture that makes us all feel part of the same family. Thank you and God bless you."

THURSDAY MASS for NHS & CARE HOME staff & the SICK –

The next live-streamed Masses to be celebrated by a Bishop on behalf of the Bishops' Conference at 7.00pm each Thurs are:
2nd July: Archbishop John Wilson, Southwark Cathedral
9th July: Bishop Tom Williams, Liverpool Cathedral

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES

READERS IN THE PARISH:- at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :- £18.00 or 12 Months:- £72.00