



## SS MICHAEL AND MARTIN

Roman Catholic Parish of Hounslow  
Archdiocese of Westminster

*This Parish is served by the Spiritans*

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

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PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE PRIESTS DIRECTLY FOR APPOINTMENT.

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14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in OT

5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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### WELCOME BACK

It is with unparalleled sense of joy, that I welcome you back to the church for public worship again, since after the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions were imposed by the Government and Ecclesiastical Authorities on March 23 2020. Honestly speaking, the world has changed as a consequence of Covid-19 pandemic. Our parish life, along with other institutional dynamics, have equally changed. Your physical absence in the church was deeply felt, especially during the celebration of the Holy Mass. Granted that you participated in those Eucharistic celebrations through the live-streaming process, it was never the same. Nonetheless, everybody had to accept the 'new way' of celebrating the Eucharist for the common good and protection of lives. All of us, gradually adjusted to the 'new reality' with some levels of hope and expectancy. As difficult and challenging as the lockdown experience was for everyone, it provided us with opportunities for revitalized self-realization, deepening of marital and family relationships, and above all, an improved relationship with God. I want to believe that everyone has been refreshed in one way or the other, and that we have developed strong sense of optimism about life in general. As a parish community, we commiserate with some of our parishioners who lost their loved ones during the Covid-19 lockdown. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May the souls of your loved ones and those of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. Amen. As we gradually return to public worship, let me reiterate that Covid-19 is still a reality in our society. We have to continue to maintain social distancing rules and personal hygiene as much as possible. **WE ARE NOT YET BACK TO THE PREVIOUS NORMAL WAY OF DOING THINGS IN THE CHURCH BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.** We will continue to adopt a gradual, considered, and structured approach to our public worship, until further notice. I hope you are returning to the church with a renewed enthusiasm, a deepened awareness of self, and a proactive love of the neighbour. As we continue to build the kingdom of God here on earth, may love, justice, peace, righteousness, and unity be our anchor. Welcome back to your spiritual home, St Michael and St Martin Catholic Church Hounslow.

**Fr Austin.**

## GUIDELINES FOR OPENING OF THE CHURCH FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

1. The **OBLIGATION** to attend Mass on Sunday is still **SUSPENDED** (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
2. Attending any weekday Mass is **SUFFICIENT** at the moment (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
3. Mass offering and/or donation, including the planned giving envelopes can be submitted either on a Sunday or during any of the weekday Masses. **Online offering/donation is preferable**, especially through **Standing Order**.
4. **WE HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THE PREVIOUS NORMAL WAY OF DOING THINGS BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**
5. Please do **NOT** come to the church **if you feel unwell**.
6. **Tickets** are available on the parish website. Tickets will admit you to the church especially for weekend Masses.
7. Given the 2m social distancing rule in the church, wearing of face covering is **optional**.
8. Please use the **hand sanitiser** as you enter the church.
9. The **Entrance** and **Exit** doors are clearly marked. Please **obey** every instruction, and **do not** argue with the Stewards/Ushers.
10. **SINGING** in the church is **SUSPENDED** until further notice.
11. **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL** is **SUSPENDED** until further notice (Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
12. Holy Communion will be distributed in **SILENCE** with no dialogue between the minister and communicant (BCEW).
13. Only **THREE** Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will help to distribute Holy Communion during each weekend Mass. Weekday Mass is only **ONE** person.
14. Weekend Masses: **Saturday** 6.15pm; **Sunday** 9am, 10.30am, 12 noon, and 6pm.
15. Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 9am and 6pm (except on Friday 7pm).
16. Church doors will open at 8.30am daily, and close after each Mass (except on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday when they will close at 1.00pm).
17. Church doors will open again at 5.30pm daily for evening Masses and private prayers, and close immediately after the 6.00pm or 6.15pm (Saturday) Mass.
18. The church will be **thoroughly cleaned** after each Mass. We will need the goodwill and cooperation of parishioners to achieve this goal.
19. Please do not leave any **used parish newsletter** or **printed materials** in the church after Mass. Kindly take it home.
20. **Ushers/Stewards** will be provided with **PPE** for their personal safety (if they do not have private ones to use).
21. Please **leave the church at the end of each Mass** in order to enable the Stewards to thoroughly clean the church. You are **encouraged to return home** and not remain in the church premises after Mass.
22. Only the **Priests, Sacristans, Altar Servers, designated Ushers/Stewards and Parish Administrator** are **allowed in the Sacristy**, until further notice.
23. Only **THREE** Altar Servers will be required for each Mass for now.
24. Only the **Priests** will have access to the **Tabernacle** until further notice.
25. Readers/Lectors will be supplied with **single-use hand gloves**. They should avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from turning the page (BCEW).
26. Readers/Lectors will **no longer be part of the procession** for the Mass until further notice.
27. Only **one** Reader/Lector will be assigned to proclaim the Word of God at each Mass.
28. There should be no sharing of the collection plate or bag during Mass. **Collection boxes will be placed at the entrance and exit of the church** – to be overseen by Stewards/Ushers.
29. The maximum capacity our church could accommodate given the 2m social distancing rule is **80**.
30. Members of the **same family/household** can sit together in a pew without observing the 2m social distancing rule.
31. Some pews will be kept for members of the same family/household.
32. A Priest will be in front of the church entrance door to stop further entry immediately the maximum capacity of the church is reached.
33. Resumption of **Ethnic Chaplaincy Masses** are delayed until further notice.
34. **Celebration of Baptism – Suspended until further notice** (Awaiting some guidelines from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales).
35. Maximum number of participants during **wedding and funeral** ceremonies in the church is **30** (BCEW).
36. Dates for celebrations of **First Holy Communion and Confirmation** will be announced later.

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Fr Austin Nwosu, CSSp.**

**Parish Priest**