



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH
41/42 LANGDALE GARDENS, PERIVALE, UB6 8DQ

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - A

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Psalm 22 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

22nd March 2020

TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

In response to the latest advice given by the Government, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have made the difficult decision to suspend all public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice. Cardinal Vincent has written a Pastoral Letter, which I invite you to read. Copies are available in the lobby and on the parish website.

What does this mean for St John Fisher?

From Friday evening, Mass will no longer be celebrated in the normal way; with a congregation – this applies to weekend and weekday Masses.

I will continue to say a Mass each day, but will do so in private and each Mass will be offered for the intention booked for that day. The tabernacle candlelight will also continue to be lit, as per your intentions.

The Church will not be closing completely. It will remain open during specific times each day, so that you may come and sit in silence and pray. Details of when the church will be open are on the next page.

Should you come to the church, please ensure you keep yourselves and others safe by continuing to follow the guidelines on good hygiene and social distancing. Please wash or sanitise your hands as you enter and leave the church and please do not sit close to each other. If you have any of the coronavirus symptoms, please do not come.

In these extraordinary circumstances, it is important that everyone understands that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.

There are many ways in which you can continue to take part and I encourage you all to **continue to pray at home**. There are resources available to help you do this. Copies of the Lenten booklet 'My Day By Day' are still available in the lobby and we will soon have the Easter booklet. Please pick up a copy of the 'No one is alone!' leaflet, which has helpful reflections and prayers. On the next page are also details of parishes who will be live-streaming their private services as well as other websites that can help you during this time. Links to these and other resources will be on our parish website and also the Diocese of Westminster website.

All other parish activities have also been suspended. Those in the Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage Course programmes have been contacted directly. Children's Liturgy, the Post-Confirmation Group meetings and teas & coffees have also been suspended until further notice.

It is also important, at this time, that we continue to care for each other, especially those who will be staying at home, possibly on their own. If you, or someone you know will be on their own and may need help, please contact the parish office. If you are someone who would be willing to help a 'neighbour within the community', please also contact the parish.

We should also think of those who will be reliant on local foodbanks during the coming months. The unprecedented level of stockpiling means that many foodbanks are struggling to obtain sufficient stock to help those who truly need it. When you are shopping please consider donating some items. You can donate at several supermarkets (please check in-store) or bring your items to the church and leave them in the boxes in the room at the back of the church.

Please visit our parish website - <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/perivale/> for regular updates and links to resources. We will continue to produce a weekly newsletter, which will be available on the website and in the lobby.

In the words of Cardinal Vincent, 'the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it'.

God bless and look after yourselves.

Fr. Agustin

THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRAYER DURING THESE TIMES:

Monday	11.00am - 2.00pm
Tuesday	11.00am - 2.00pm
Wednesday	The church will be closed all day
Thursday	11.00am - 2.00pm
Friday	11.00am - 2.00pm
Saturday	5.00pm - 7.00p
Sunday	9.30am - 12.30pm

PARISH EVENTS

Stations of the Cross	CANCELLED
Children's Liturgy	CANCELLED
Teas & Coffees	CANCELLED
Post-Confirmation Group	CANCELLED
Holy Communion Programme	Postponed until further notice
Confirmation Programme	Postponed until further notice
Marriage Course	Postponed until further notice

It is not yet known what the plans will be for Holy Week and Easter. We will share more information once we have it.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

During these challenging times, please look out for your neighbours and friends. If someone is in self-isolation, maybe you can keep in touch over the phone. A friendly voice can make a big difference. Perhaps you might be willing to do some shopping for them or collect a prescription.

If you are willing to help another parishioner please let us know by email or phone. Please provide your name and contact details and how you would be willing to help.

If you, or someone you know needs help, now or at any time over the coming weeks, please contact the parish office by phone or email and we will aim to provide support.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN

Monday to Friday
9.30am - 2.30pm

Please contact the office if you have any queries or need assistance.

Please leave a message if you are calling outside of office

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Praying alone can be difficult. You might not know how or where to start. To enable you to continue to participate in prayer, the following resources are available:

'MY DAY BY DAY' BOOKLET FOR LENT - Copies of this booklet are still available in the lobby - £1 each. The Easter Booklet will be available in the coming weeks.

NO ONE IS ALONE! - Leaflet with prayer suggestions and reflections. Copies in the lobby. Please take one.

MASSES ONLINE - A number of churches in the diocese are live streamed and can be visited online at any time using the relevant website address. Please visit our parish website for detail of the churches that are live-streamed. A list is also available in the lobby.

OTHER WEBSITES - There are many websites offering information and support at this time. Among them are:

The Diocese of Westminster	www.rcdow.org.uk
The Bishops' Conference	www.cbcew.org.uk
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham	www.walsingham.org.uk
Lent in Isolation	www.lentinisolation.com

DAILY READINGS - available from www.universalis.com. Information is also available on how to download the app onto your smart phone.

WEEKLY DONATIONS

If you wish to continue to donate to the church at this time, you may bring your donation envelope when you come to the church for prayer and give it to the Parish Office or to Fr Agustin. Please note that we do not expect you to do this every week. Please only do so when, and if, you are able to. If you are unable to come to church, you can resume your donations once we return to normal.

If you can, you may want to consider making one-off donations via internet banking or switch to Standing Order. If you would like more information please contact the parish office.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE BOXES

Boxes of new envelopes will be available for collection from the Parish Office during these times:

Monday - Friday 11.00 - 2.00

They will also be available on selected Saturdays and Sundays. Ana will be at the back of the Church on those days.

Please note that the envelopes do not start until 12th April, so there is plenty of time. Any boxes that have not been collected by 5th April will be hand-delivered to home addresses.