



**ST FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 HIGH ROAD, TOTTENHAM N17 8AG**

TEL 020 8808 3554 - E-mail: tottenham@rcdow.org.uk

website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/tottenham/>

Parish Priest: Fr David Lucuy Claros. Parish Administrator: Mrs. Elisabete Veselovska.

Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Marcelle Jemide

OUR PARISH PROJECTS AT THIS TIME OF LOCK DOWN

FOOD STALL



We have started our Food Stall on the 6 April 2020 at the request of Caritas Westminster and The Felix Project which delivers food to 117 schools across London. The project provides food that would otherwise go to waste to schools where there is particular need. <https://thefelixproject.org/> The original plan was to become an emergency food distribution point for the families of the Whittingham Primary School and Meridian Angel Primary School are two of the schools that the Felix Project used to deliver food before the lock down. Since then we have been distributing food to any family or person who came to our door on Mondays from 3pm-5pm.

However, the news of our food stall has been advertised widely in the Haringey borough that attracted many more people from the Tottenham and Edmonton. At the start we were able to provide for about 30 people but the number of people in need increased rapidly week after week. Consequently, we have been looking to get more food from other Charities. Rosa Lewis from Westminster Caritas has been really helpful on this and has put in contact with **Fareshare** which, has given us access to collect some more dried food from ASDA Edmonton. Likewise, our neighbouring parish of St Paul's in Wood Green, has generously provided us with more food and cash which, they collected for their foodbank. Eventually, I followed the advice given by Liz, a volunteer from Caritas Westminster who came visit our Project and made an appeal for dried food to all our parishioners through the live streaming parish Mass. This appeal has reached far and wide and have been very fruitful. The response has been overwhelmingly positive in every sense. People from our parish and many people who are following the parish Mass online, have

responded generously with money and items for our Food Stall. Up to date we have received **£505.00** in cheques and cash sent to the parish for this project.

The number of messages of gratitude and joy we have received so far are a consolation and we are very pleased to hear that people are experiencing joy because they have been offered the opportunity to do something to support those who are in most need at this moment of crisis.



At present we have increased the number of people to whom we can serve, from 30 up to 70. With all your contributions, we will be able to increase the quality and the volume of the packages which, our volunteers are preparing safely with lots of care and love.

We are grateful to all of you for your generous contributions and solidarity with all the families who are benefitting from this little project. We are making a huge difference to many families, from our parish and school but above all to many families who are refugees, who do not speak English or those migrants who are stuck in London, living in hostels and are unable to get a job and therefore an income.



As Church, we feel privilege to be

able to help with the little we have and fulfil the Gospel of the Lord which we hear everyday and tried to put it into practice what Jesus said:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, "I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' [...] "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Mt 25: 35-36.40

On behalf of all the families, volunteers, and parishioners, thank you very much for your solidarity and your generous donations of food and money for this great cause.

THE BOUNDARY WALL

St Francis boundary wall project was drafted and presented by my predecessor Fr Hector Rouco. He and Jim Keegan, the Surveyor of the Diocese of Westminster have worked and presented the project as urgent, since the brick and part iron railings boundary wall was leaning badly and abuts public pavements throughout its length. This has posed a real threat to the safety of the parishioners and the public. The wall was probably re-built after 1945 after an incendiary bomb fell on the Marist Convent in October 1940 and damaged the surrounding areas of the Church.

On March 6th 2020 the Company McGee & Stangroom signed the approval of the project and started the following week on 16th March.



However, as you remember the Government declared the lock down of the city due to Covid-19 and they have to stop the works and postpone it till new instructions were given.

As you know we had to close the Church for public Masses and the whole site was left deserted. During the time of lock down, regrettably some of the bricks were stolen by unscrupulous people who took advantage of the situation and probably are building up a wall in their garden.

Never mind, we will pray for them and carry on with our lives and project!



The good news is that after the PM announcement last Sunday, the builders are back to work on site since Tuesday 12 May! They are making a great progress and taking advantage of the good weather, which is much needed for this work and for us too. This is how is looking it now!



Isn't this looking great?!



LIVE-STREAMING MASS FROM ST FRANCIS

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1kTxQ8IE31XI1_HTh779IQ/videos

Since the second week of the lock down, we have been able to live – stream mass from St Francis. We started streaming it from my office and then we progress to the Church for which we have to install a new cable from our router from the parish office. I would not have been able to do it without the help of Tomas and Jakub our seminarian from Allen Hall.



Jakub arrived just at the start of Holy Week. He was very weak at the start because he was recovering from Covid-19. His arrival to the parish has been a great blessing for me and all of us. He has been able to improve the quality of the live-streaming week after week and has been an exceptionally good companion who drives me out to celebrate funerals and collect food for our Food Stall. I have borrowed a car from the Redemptoris Mater Seminary, from where Jakub and myself have been formed. Thanks be to God for him and for his photography skills, which have proven to be of great help. He has a lot to catch up with his dissertation and more studies, but he is always available to help in the liturgy and any other work in the community and the house. Many might be wondering how the Church looks like from behind the scenes. Well, this is how it does look like:



I have placed your individual and family photos on the benches or areas where you would usually sit in Church when you used to attend Sunday Mass. This helps me to picture you and your family when I celebrate Mass. And yes, I know more or less when about you sit in the assembly! I can see you when you have been cheeky and sneak in a bit late too.! So, if you haven't sent your family photo yet, please do send me as soon as you can.



This is our paschal candle, which portrays the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist. This was painted by a priest friend called Daniel Herrero. On top you can see the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus. This candle will be used a lot for the many baptisms waiting to happen once we are allowed to get back into Church when safety measures are put in place.

This time of lock down is trying for all of us but it has made us grow in faith and taught us to appreciate more the Sacraments and what are the more important things in life, the family, the community of the Church and our relationship with God and Mary our Mother.

Thank you all for your prayers, for your love and dedication to our Church; for your faithfulness to the Lord and our community; for

your generosity towards our poor families and the vulnerable members of our Church. May our Mother Mary bless us all and accompany us with her motherly love.

Fr David, Elisabete, Marcelle, Jakub and the team at St Francis de Sales Catholic Church