

Suspension of the Public Celebration of Masses

On 4th November 2020, Parliament passed into law The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020.1 These are in force from 5 November to 2 December 2020. As well as the Regulations, the Government has updated its Guidance for the safe use of places of worship to reflect current circumstances. The Regulations preclude gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass, baptisms and most weddings.

The Bishops Conference of England and Wales and the Archdiocese of Southwark have mandated that there would no longer be public celebration of the Masses on both Sundays and weekdays till further notice.

In real terms, this implies that our Parish Church will be closed for the celebration of weekday and Sunday masses till the 2nd of December. This is another sad period again for everybody in the Parish, especially, given the dedication of our Parish stewards in these last few months, in ensuring a Covid-safe environment for our public worship. We shall continue to work together as a family of God on mission in the Cray valley Parish.

Please I would recommend that we regularly visit the Parish website for updates on any recent happenings or news in the Parish. Please do take care of the following details:

- ❖ The livestreaming of masses will continue and the recorded version will be available online via Youtube. To follow the 10am Mass on Sunday morning, type Crays Parish on YouTube and you are good to go.
- ❖ Our Church will be opened for private/individual prayer from Wednesday 18th November 2020. Opening hours will be Wednesday 5pm to 7pm and Friday from 9am to 11am.
- ❖ We shall be exposing the Blessed Sacrament for individual adoration during the opening slots for Friday's private/individual prayer session.

- ❖ We shall ensure that parishioners who do not have access to the internet are contacted through phone calls or any other means available to the Parish.
- ❖ We shall continue to upload every weekend, the Parish Newsletter which will contain the Sunday readings, spiritual reflections on the readings, diary for the week and any other useful information for the parishioners.
- ❖ The Parish Outreach Group has volunteered to do shopping for elderly or housebound parishioners who may need support at this time.
- ❖ The Parish is equally ready to give communion to the sick who are at home. For those in the hospital, we may attend to them based on the permission of the hospital staff who are in-charge of infection control.

For more information on the suspension of public worship, you can refer to the Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England which has been uploaded on the both the Parish and Archdiocesan websites. You can also refer to the document on Covid-19 Guidance – November 2020 by Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas. This document has also been uploaded on the Parish website.

Finally, I wish to reassure all of you of my continual prayers for you and your families. God willing, we shall bounce back to our normal Parish activities in the first week of December. I commend you to our Blessed Mother Mary for divine protection and please remember to keep me in your prayers.

With kind regards,
Fr. Cyriacus

