

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.



Introduction

The re-commencement of public Masses is a moment of great joy for our Catholic community, as we come together for the act of worship and thanksgiving that is central to our faith. Bishop Richard said: *the return to the public celebration of Mass is a wonderful step for us all and an opportunity to look afresh at the call that we have received from the Lord to be at the service of the Gospel.* We are, of course, mindful that this step must be taken in a safe and sensitive manner, as befits our social responsibilities. This leaflet will explain how we propose to do this.

The initial plan is for Mass to be celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows at 10am each day of the week (except Thursday). At this time, the obligation to go to Mass remains suspended and no-one ought to feel any concern about not going to Mass.

What can I expect?

Every person who comes to our Churches at this time, whether for private prayer, or for Mass, will be asked to do several things that promote good hygiene and help each other to keep safe.

- Please use the hand sanitiser when you come into Church, and when you leave;
- please follow social distancing both when you're moving about the Church (arriving, leaving, and Holy Communion) and when you're in the benches;
- please respect the 2m distance, and although masks are not required, please feel free to bring and use your own mask if you wish.

There will be some changes to the liturgy, too, to reduce the time people are together, and to minimise contact between people and things. At this time, the congregation is invited to speak without raising the voice. There won't be any Prayer of the Faithful, or Sign of Peace, or communal singing, or collection, and there won't be the opportunity to receive from the chalice. At the time for Holy Communion, there will be a general acclamation of the Lord's presence – the priest will raise the Host and say *The Body of Christ* to which everyone responds, *Amen!* And the same with the chalice: *The Blood of Christ – Amen!* Then, as people come up to receive Holy Communion (under one kind), there is no individual dialogue between priest and communicant. People will be invited to extend their hands out as far as they can to receive communion in the hand. Welcomers will invite each bench by turns to come to the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion.

Numbers will be limited to ensure everyone in the Church can maintain the appropriate distance. This does mean, however, that we'll be limited to about 30 people in the Church at any one time, and so we'll operate a booking system.

How do I book?

Please think about when to come to Mass. For instance, if you can come during the week, it would be good to do so and therefore leave the weekend Masses for those who are at work during the week. Booking can be

made through the Parish Secretary, Caroline, in the Parish Office, either by email bognorcatholicparish@live.co.uk or by 'phone (01243) 823619. At the beginning, we'll be asking people to come not more than once a week until such time as we have a better idea about numbers.

How can I help?

You will be a great help to each other by following the guidelines outlined in this newsletter, remembering good hygiene and social distancing, and although you may be tempted, please avoid gathering or lingering in Church to talk. Come early for Mass as there may be a queue of people waiting to sanitise their hands as they enter the Church and whilst you wait, remember the 2m rule. Your help with the cleaning and/or welcoming would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Caroline in the Parish Office to do with cleaning, and Mike and Miren O'Brien to do with Welcoming (01243) 936310 / 07443 580058

Other questions

- *Will Mass continue to be live-streamed?* We hope so! Live-streaming whilst celebrating with a congregation is dependent on our sound system being adequate for the task, and we'll have to review this as we go along. If not, we'll keep one Mass livestreamed on a Sunday.
- *Will Mass be celebrated at St Anthony's or St Richard's?* We're going to begin at Our Lady of Sorrows and see how things work out. But mindful of the importance of a congregation being able to pray together, and depending on numbers, it's our hope that one Mass per week could be celebrated at the other two Churches in due course.
- *I'm over 70 – can I come?* Yes, although anyone over 70 is advised to take particular care.
- *I have symptoms of coronavirus – can I come?* In accordance with Government guidelines, anyone with symptoms of the virus should self-isolate for 14 days, so please don't come to Mass during this time.
- *Is the Sacrament of Reconciliation available?* Yes, at the moment by appointment – please ring Fr Chris on (01243) 823619 or email chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk. It may be possible going forward to advertise a regular time for the celebration of the Sacrament.

*Any concerns or queries, please contact Fr Chris (01243) 823619
or chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk*



www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk



BognorSlindonCatholicparish



BognorSlindonCatholicparish