

The Catholic Parish Christ the King & St Joachim

Ss Joachim & Anna
Patronal Festival
25/26th July 2020

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Dear Friends,

We have all been going through a very challenging time, and as we emerge from the lock-down there is a difficult path for us all to navigate. Returning to church has clearly been a great joy for many, and as your parish priest I felt your absence acutely during the time when we sadly had to lock the church. The effort to reopen the churches has involved a number of people providing extra-cleaners, stewards, as well as a great deal of patience as often changing advice comes out - I would like to thank everybody who has worked so hard to ensure that we could re-open at the earliest possible moment, your help has been vital and has benefited your fellow parishioners.

I understand that a number of people have concerns around certain aspects of the celebration of Mass, and so it might be helpful to explain what is happening and why decisions have been taken to make sure that everybody is kept safe and that we are able to gather to offer the proper worship which is the heart of our parish life.

The issues are: the wearing of face masks, receiving the sacrament of our Lord on the tongue and singing in mass. The latest advice from the diocese is that face masks should be worn and that people should receive the sacrament in the hand and there should be no singing by the congregation, although a cantor can sing in controlled circumstances.

I stress that this is advice. There is lots of advice from the diocese in relation to things that happen in our churches but these 3 issues above seems to have generated some strong feelings.

Face Masks: The advice from the diocese on face masks has changed this week after the government has told everyone that they must wear face masks while shopping. The rule applies unless you are in a restaurant, cafe or pub in which case you don't have to wear them. Most of the major supermarkets have stated that they will not enforce the face mask rule.

We have spaced our seating in a way that means we haven't had to wear masks.

The one advantage to wearing masks, it is argued, is that they may hinder the passing on of the virus to others which is fine if you think you might be a carrier or work in a high risk environment. Masks do not protect the wearer and may even be detrimental to those with any respiratory problems. It is said that the effectiveness of the blue surgical masks last about 30 minutes. In church we are all facing the same way and not at each other, we are usually not up wandering around the building and there is a good distance between household bubbles. I am therefore not going to change my current approach in relation to this. If people wish to wear masks they are free to do so. I do not want anyone criticised for wearing or not wearing a face mask. The church will not be supplying masks, so if you wish to wear one, you must provide your own. As an aside, anyone with any symptoms must stay at home and not come to mass.

Receiving on the tongue: I am not going to deny those who wish to receive our Lord on the tongue, in fact I cannot as Canon Law prevents me. However, that is not the main reason for my decision. Those who have studied these things scientifically have concluded that receiving on the tongue is more hygienic and safer than receiving in the hand. Therefore it is a practice that I would normally encourage rather than deny.

In my own experience I have noted that twice in 6 months (outside the lockdown) have I brushed a person's lip while giving on the tongue. Yet every single mass at least once often more times I ended up touching people's hands who receive in the hand. We rightly provide hand sanitiser but how often do people inadvertently without thinking about it touch their hair, eyes, ears, nose and mouth?

Most people's objections stem from the fact that it looks as if it might be more risky to give on the tongue but it isn't. However, to help alleviate people's negative feelings towards reception on the tongue, I am reluctantly laying an extra burden on those who do receive on the tongue and am asking them to

wait until everyone else has received. Again I do not want people being criticised for either practice.

Singing: The diocese has given more extensive advice and discourages any congregational singing. The priest and a cantor under strict guidelines can provide some singing. We have no cantor as such in our churches and the priest provides some singing of the mass setting. To comply with the tightened regulations would in reality mean facing the same way as the congregation, towards the tabernacle while celebrating mass if we were to continue singing. While that would be perfectly fine with the priests, it would however be impractical at St Joachim's because of the placement of the altar. At Christ the King it would be perfectly possible but many would react negatively towards it. Therefore singing will be suspended at masses unless the priest celebrates facing East, towards the tabernacle.

With all these issues we try to mitigate risk but we cannot eliminate risk all together. Our cleaning regime is very effective with the very good helpers at both churches doing an outstanding job. I do hope this can settle people's minds and not allow fears to cause tension and upset within the community.

The risk of contagion at mass is much lower than it is for many other activities we might well be involved in. We are trying our best without be over scrupulous on the one hand or too laissez faire on the other.

Every blessing, Fr. Neil

CELEBRATIONS OF PUBLIC MASSES IS NOW PERMISSIBLE

Mass will be celebrated publicly and those present, and are in a state of grace, will be able to receive our Lord in the blessed sacrament.

There are strict regulations around how we celebrate and receive while keeping people as safe as possible. This situation isn't perfect and we have to do the best we can with the limiting restrictions in place. Below are the mass times that we are planning to put on.

Mon	10am
Tues	7.30am (Latin)
Wed	10am (St Joachim's)
Thur	6pm for adoration mass at 7pm
Fri	12noon after mass adoration till 5pm
Sat CTK	adoration 9-11am

Sat CTK. 5pm
Sun, CTK 9.30am & 11.30am
Sun, St Jo's 9.30am
Sun St Agnes 4pm

Toilets: there will be limited access to a single toilet in each church as the toilet will have to be cleaned after each use. The kitchens will not be open or refreshments given until notified otherwise.

Mass Intentions:

25th Sat 5pm - Patrick Croucher RIP
Sun CTK 11.30 - Alfonsa Moodie RIP
Monday 10am - Patrick Croucher RIP
1st August Sat 5pm - Fr Chris Bergin

Live streaming of Mass in the Parish

The times for streamed masses are;
Monday 10am (Ordinariate FB page)
Wednesday 10am (parish FB Page)
Friday. 10am (Parish FB Page)
Sunday. 9.30am (Parish FB Page)

Gift Aid Envelopes at CTK: David Cockett will be handing them out to the individuals that use them rather than leaving them at the back of the church.

Zoom parish prayer meeting:

We will continue to have our Fridays evening prayer meeting at [7.00pm](#).
Meeting ID: 343 302 3105
Password: 340767

it is possible now to join by phone:
[0203 481 5240](tel:02034815240) United Kingdom

We pray for : George Gibson, Chris Gimmons, Don Wilkins, Mary Bateman, Thelma Kemp, Stuart McCarthy, Sheila Douds, Helena Sagnelia, Pauline Sollis, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O'Driscoll, Eddie Burke, Rene Cook, Gill Cooke, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Eileen Kehoe, Diana Smith, Pat Raper, Colleen Stock, Sr Mary Keiley, Charles El Mawas, Jane Hollands, Kirina Blaty, & Moira Morrison.

For the deceased -who have died recently: Rose Swift, Terry North, Peter Sollis and Sidonia Camacho and for all our deceased relatives & friends.

Readings for the Solemnity of Ss. Joachim & Anne, 26 July, 2020.

First Reading - Ecclesiasticus 44:1, 10-15

Let us praise illustrious men, our ancestors in their successive generations. Here is a list of generous men whose good works have not been

forgotten. In their descendants there remains a rich inheritance born of them. Their descendants stand by the covenants and, thanks to them, so do their children's children. Their offspring will last for ever, their glory will not fade. Their bodies have been buried in peace, and their name lives on for all generations. The peoples will proclaim their wisdom, the assembly will celebrate their praises.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 131: 11, 13-14, 17-18

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

The Lord swore an oath to David; he will not go back on this word: 'A son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.' **R**

For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling: 'This is my resting-place for ever; here have I chosen to live. **R**

'There David's stock will flower; I will prepare a lamp for my anointed. I will cover his enemies with shame but on him my crown shall shine.' **R**

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia!

They looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested upon them. **Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 13:16-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Happy are your eyes because they see, your ears

because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Parish Clergy:
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