



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH
MAIDENHEAD

Message from Fr John for 15th Sunday of the Year

Returning to Mass at St Joseph's & St. Elizabeth's Churches

Dear Friends

In the coming week I will begin to celebrate Mass publicly on different weekdays at both our Churches. Until we find and install a suitable booking system Sunday Masses will continue to be livestreamed for now. Mass and prayer times have been arranged in compliance with Government and Church regulations.

Proposal: Times of Masses

Day of the Week	St. Joseph's	St Elizabeth's
Monday	10am Livestream Mass	X
Tuesday	7.30pm	10.00am
Wednesday	10am Livestream Mass	12pm Funeral Mass
Thursday	10am	7.30pm
Friday	10am Livestream Mass	X
Saturday	10am 3pm – 5.30pm Private Prayer 6:30pm (Vigil) Livestream Mass	X
Sunday	11am: Livestream Mass 12pm – 2pm: Private Prayer	9.15am-10.15am Private Prayer

A number of things to be aware of:

- **There is no** obligation to attend Church and this will remain the case for the foreseeable future. Any decision to attend or not is an entirely personal one for you.

- **St Joseph's and St Elizabeth's churches will look very different when you arrive; it will not be a case of coming back to what you are used to. With the help of our wonderful volunteers we have done our best to ensure it still feels like a place of worship.**
- **The maximum capacity for each Mass in both churches is 50 people.**
- **Both Churches will be closed on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays to allow for cleaning. On those days I will livestream a Mass at 10am in the morning using Zoom. From time to time I may have to open a Church on these days for a funeral. Next Wednesday 15th July I will be celebrating the funeral Mass for the late Mary Wall RIP at 12pm in St. Elizabeth's, Cookham.**

How safe will it be for me to come to Mass at St Joseph's or St Elizabeth's?

- A full risk assessment has been carried out for both Churches;
- All health, hygiene and social distancing guidelines from the Government and the Diocese have been catered for and will need to be followed by everyone attending;
- The church will have been thoroughly cleaned before each Mass or time of prayer
- There will be a 'one-way' system, with people entering by the front door and leaving via the Parish Centre. At St Elizabeth's there is only one entry and exit point.
- A team of trained volunteer stewards will be on hand throughout to help people understand what procedures need to be followed and in case of any difficulty;
- Out of concern for others, please consider staying away for now if you are 'shielding' or if you are feeling unwell. Remember I will continue to livestream a number of Masses during the week for those who, for whatever reason, cannot return to Church. If you are over 70, the decision whether to come to Mass or not is yours if you are in good health.
- You are encouraged to wear a face mask when coming to Church for Mass or prayer.
- When someone leaves the church, their seat will be cleaned before a new person uses it.
- Toilets have to be kept closed for health reasons and so will not be available. In an emergency, see one of the stewards.

What about Mass offerings?

- A box will be left at the exit point of each church. Please leave your offerings, envelopes, etc before you leave the Church. Thank you!
- Have you thought about making out a standing order or direct debit to St Joseph's Church?

How do I receive Communion at Mass?

- At this time you should receive Holy Communion in the hand.

What do I need to do now?

- Please think about what Mass you are going to attend during the week and which Church. **When you have decided please email me (jlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or telephone 01628 783988 leaving your name, contact number and an indication of what Mass you will be coming to and will there be anyone with you? Please remember that at this time we cannot take more than 50 people at each Mass.**

Once again, I look forward to welcoming you back to St Joseph's and St Elizabeth's in the coming days.

Let's continue to pray for one another and for all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

God bless you!

Fr John