

Catholic Church of Mary, Mother of God

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR

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Thursday 2nd July 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It gives me great joy to let you know that we are now able to celebrate Mass again publicly and we will begin to do so this coming weekend beginning on Saturday 4th July 2020. After almost 15 weeks we can now come together as a parish community and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion again. We give thanks to God and His Blessed Mother.

Obviously there will be many restrictions that we will have to be aware of and there are guidelines that our Bishops have told us that we must follow. These are to make sure that you feel protected when coming into our church and that you will be entering an area of safety. Please come prepared to follow these guidelines carefully and willingly. Things are not as they were before and this for us will be a "new normal" for the foreseeable future.

Numbers in our church will be restricted at every Mass. We will be following the one metre plus rule for social distancing which means that for safety we can only allow 60 places in the church (a 'place' being just one person, or two or three from the same house sitting together). Places are marked on the benches and you will be asked to sit on one of these. Only every other bench will be used so **please do not enter** a bench which has been closed off by white tape. Stay safely away from other people who might be sharing the bench with you.

Stewards will help you find places in the church so as to make sure that all places are filled and that, if possible, we do not have to turn people away. Please cooperate with the Stewards they are there to help

Because we are following the 1 metre plus rule **face masks must be worn in the church at all times other than when you are receiving Holy Communion**. Please make sure you bring a face mask with you.

Please sanitize when you enter the church and when you leave. Bring tissues with you and if you sneeze or cough please make sure that you use one and take it with you after Mass or bin it as you leave. Do not leave it in the bench.

We welcome families into our church and all we ask is that parents keep their children close to them and do not allow them to wander in and out of the benches. We want everyone to feel safe.

You will be handed a newsletter and Mass leaflet as you come into the church – these are to be used only once so please do take them with you as you leave the church. Do not leave them in the benches or put them down in the porch.

You may light candles in the church but we would ask you not to touch the statues as you pass them.

The collection (envelopes and cash) will be taken at the door as you **leave** the church. Please give generously if you are able and do try and 'catch up' with your envelope giving as we have missed a lot of collections and we have still had to pay our bills

Mass will be shorter than usual and will last no more than 45 minutes. There will be no Bidding Prayers or offertory procession. There will be no singing at any Mass. There will be no sign of peace and you will be asked to leave at the end of the Mass and not to linger in the church or porch. This is to give time between Masses so that the church can be sanitized and got ready for the next Mass.

Holy Communion will be given at the **END** of Mass and not at the usual time. Please approach the altar only by the centre aisle as directed by the Stewards. Please observe social distancing when waiting for Communion. Communion will only be given in the hand and you should stretch your hand towards the priest or the minister. Once you have received Holy Communion, please leave the church at once.

NEW MASS TIMES for JULY

Saturday: 10.00am
Confessions: 10.45am – 11.30am
5.00pm – Vigil Mass of the Sunday

Sunday: 8.00am
9.30am
11.00am
3.30pm
5.00pm

Monday – Thursday: 10.00am (the church will remain open until 12 noon)

Friday: 7.30pm

Please come early to secure a place and do not bring people from other parishes as we are very restricted for places for our own parishioners. You may have to wait before entering the church so please be patient.

Because there is no obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday at the moment you might like to consider coming to one of the weekday Masses – this would spread the numbers of parishioners more evenly over the week.

From this weekend we will also be streaming our services, The link is:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>

I am so grateful for your co-operation and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Please call me if you would like more clarification on any of these things and I would be grateful if you could pass this message on to as many of our parishioners as possible.

My best regards and prayer always,

Fr John