



Parish of St Joseph

125 Newtown Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 1PF

Tel: 01684 574250

Parish Priest: Fr. Nazarius Mgungwe
email: fr.nazarius.mgungwe@rcaob.org.uk

Parish administrators: Anne Lewis
Samantha Craig
email: stjoseph.malvern@rcaob.org.uk

2 July 2020

Dear St Joseph's Parishioners,

As you are aware, from 4th July the government is allowing public acts of worship. **Public Masses will resume at St Joseph's from Monday 6th July.** This is a welcome step but is **not** a return to normality.

It is absolutely vital that if you, or somebody else in your household, have any symptoms of COVID-19 that you do not attend Mass. Symptoms include:

- a **high temperature**
- a **new, continuous cough**
- a **loss or change to your sense of taste or smell**

The Bishops of England & Wales have given guidance for measures that must be put in place. It is important to reassure you that there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

We encourage parishioners to attend a weekday Mass. Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

- **Mondays at 12noon**
- **Tuesdays at 9:15am**
- **Thursdays at 7:00pm**
- **Fridays at 9:15am**
- **Saturdays at 10:00am and 6:00pm**
- **Sundays at 10:00am**

We have discussed parishioners booking their preferred Mass ahead of time, but have concluded that, at this time, there is no straightforward way of doing this. We will see how Masses go this week and evaluate the situation.

Church will open 15 minutes before each Mass.

On arrival, parishioners will be asked to disinfect their hands with sanitiser.

It will be necessary to collect the names and phone numbers of anyone attending Mass for contact tracing purposes. Please be prepared to write your name and a phone number on a card which will be provided at Mass. These will be put in an envelope and sealed. The envelope will be dated and held for 21 days. After this time the cards will be disposed of in accordance with GDPR guidelines.

St Joseph's socially distanced seating arrangement will accommodate 25 people in the church. People will be admitted on a first come first served basis.

Couples and family groups will be asked to sit together in designated side pews.

Everyone **must wear a face covering** whilst in church with the only exception being to consume the host.

There will be two volunteer stewards at each Mass. If the Church reaches capacity or a parishioner does not wear a face covering, the stewards will have instructions to stop those people from entering the church. **There cannot be any exceptions to this.**

Only Jithin Titto will serve and assist Fr Naz. Neither Fr Naz nor Jithin will wear masks in accordance with diocesan recommendations for priests and servers.

All Masses will continue to be livestreamed. Upon entering the church, you will see a camera and a laptop set up for this purpose. Jithin will begin the livestream shortly before the start of Mass.

The homily will be shorter than usual and there will be no intercessions.

As the priest is about to receive Communion, he will raise the Host saying: "the Body of Christ" and the congregation will respond collectively "Amen". He will then raise the chalice, saying "the Blood of Christ" and the congregation will respond by saying "Amen".

Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing and avoiding any physical contact. Parishioners should wait in their seats until instructed by the stewards to move forward to the priest for Holy Communion and observe the regulations on social distancing in an orderly queue. When they approach the priest they should do so with arms at "full stretch" so that there is a good distance between the priest and communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one on top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. Having received Holy Communion, communicants should return to their pews in an orderly manner.

After the final blessing and dismissal, parishioners should wait in their seats until the stewards direct them to leave. We ask that parishioners avoid congregating at the exit and in the car park.

Please note that the toilets will be closed.

We know that these measures will feel strange for all of us and will be difficult for some, but we must do all we can to protect one another and minimise transmission of the virus.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Naz