UPDATE  FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. Priests in the sanctuary providing they are sufficiently distant (2m or more) from the congregation do not need to wear a face covering except when distributing Holy Communion. (Catholic Bishops England & Wales 3rd August 2020  Revision 10)

Take care!

Bishop Alan has asked us to emphasise that care should be taken by the people in unlooping their face covering for the reception of Holy Communion and replacing the covering afterwards. This is to prevent contamination of the covering by the hands. The risk is regarded as minimal providing there is no hand to hand contact between the minister of Holy Communion and the communicant.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR MASS EVERY DAY (9.45-10.30 on weekdays) & IN THE AFTERNOONS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER (3 p.m. to 4 p.m.).

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<th>MASS</th>
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<td>SATURDAY 15th</td>
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<td>SUNDAY 16th</td>
<td>8.00 &amp; 10.00</td>
<td>3.00-4.00</td>
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Our thanks to the stewards who are helping to keep the church open.
COMING TO MASS ON SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY MORNING

Please observe the usual distancing of four seats between ‘bubbles’, and please follow the guidance of the stewards re hand-sanitising, face coverings and seat allocation.

DURING MASS
Please do not use the kneelers.
For the time being, there will be no singing.
There will be a box for Sunday Collections near the door.

HOLY COMMUNION
For the reception of Holy Communion the priest celebrant will lead into ‘Behold the Lamb of God…Lord, I am not worthy’ and then he will raise the Host and say ‘Body of Christ’ to which all respond ‘Amen.’ He will raise the Chalice and say ‘Blood of Christ’ to which all respond ‘Amen.’ The stewards will invite parishioners forward, row by row.

Our Bishops have instructed us that in the present circumstances Communion will be received only in the hand. Without further word and with hand extended the parishioners receive Holy Communion and return to their seats.
Your return to places is by following the arrows.

AT THE END OF MASS
The congregation leaves row by row, starting from the back, as instructed by the stewards, following the arrows.

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday 5.30 p.m.  Sunday 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
The church is closed after each Mass for cleaning

As restrictions continue, I invite you to let me know if you wish to attend Mass on Saturday or Sunday. Your replies will be treated on a first come first served basis. Approx 38 people at each Mass.

Also, if you have a place and are unable to come to Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass please let me know in good time.

* * *

CONCERNING WEEKDAY MASSES at 10 o’clock:

Please observe the following:

ENTRY:  PLEASE use your mask, apply the sanitising gel, follow the arrows, centre aisle, fill from the front, observe the spacing.

COMMUNION:  PLEASE start from the front rows into centre aisle, return following the arrows.

EXIT:  PLEASE start from the back, leave rows by side aisles, use the gel, follow the arrows to sacristy exit.
Prayer for the sick

Father in heaven,
grant our relatives and friends comfort in their suffering.
When they are afraid, give them courage,
when afflicted give them patience,
when dejected, afford them hope,
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen
*(Prayer adapted from the Liturgy of Anointing)*

Let’s keep up our prayers for parishioners, family, community and friends:
operations, postponements, fractures and falls, Covid19, chemotherapy, separation, isolation, anxiety and rehabilitation. We pray in particular for Pamela Arriens, Catherine Atkins, George and Mary Davy, George Hopkins, Lynda Shaw, Margaret Shimell.

R.I.P. Please pray for Bernard Rushton’s father, Herbert Leo Rushton, who died on Sunday 2nd August, aged 96 years. We pray for him and offer our sympathy and prayers to Bernard and his family.

A timely comparison
Parish income from Sundays (collections and standing orders):
June & July 2019 - £7482 June & July 2020 - £4393
The effects of the pandemic are clearly seen. We hope that when everybody returns to our usual routine, things will even out, without doing anything extra. One parishioner who had not been to the Priory since mid-March deposited all her weekly envelopes with us this week: every week duly completed. Others have done the same in previous weeks. Hopeful signs, I think.

A Stream of Masses
We have made the transfer from the Oratory (it will never be big enough as long as social distancing is the order of the day) to the Church where the 10 o’clock Mass is streamed on Sundays and on weekdays. The technical quality has been improved (many of you have commented) and this is 100% due to the hard work and determination of Fr Stefan in combination with the purchase of a very good camera. You’ll have noticed that the camera gives a brief, general sweep of the church at the beginning of proceedings, just to provide a context for the celebration, and then moves to a closer focus on the altar and lectern. What you will not notice, unless you come to check it out, is the tidy little niche that has been provided for the camera in an unobtrusive part of the gallery’s banister. Thanks to Dick Oldershaw for that.

You and I, your friends and you, families and neighbours, all have been praying for one another all during this period and before. But it was uplifting to be asked to offer Mass for the members of the community, which I did, gratefully, on Thursday, the feast of the Transfiguration. Thank you.
Saints of the week

Monday 10th  St Laurence  3rd century, deacon, martyred in Rome by being roasted on a gridiron. Famous for his care for the welfare of the people of the church in Rome, the city of which he is patron. When challenged to reveal the Church’s wealth, he brought the poor, the sick, the infirm, the people who are the real treasure of the Church. 50 years after his martyrdom the Emperor Constantine had a basilica built over Laurence’s tomb. (The comet’s tail, visible near the feast of St Laurence, is called ‘the tears of St Laurence’.)

Tuesday 11th  St Clare of Assisi, died 1253, friend and disciple of St Francis. Towards the end of her life, when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would display on the wall of her cell; thus her patronage of television. Clare loved music and, it is said, ‘well-composed sermons’. She is sometimes portrayed holding a monstrance, a reference to an incident when the convent was being attacked and Clare went to the gates carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance…. The marauders departed. Founder of the Poor Clares.

Wednesday 12th  St Jane Frances de Chantal  d. 1641. With her spiritual director St Francis de Sales, she founded the Visitation sisters.

Friday 14th  St Maximilian Kolbe  d. 1941 in Auschwitz when he offered his life in exchange for the father of a family who had been selected for execution as a reprisal. His offer was accepted. The man he replaced survived and was present at Kolbe’s canonisation. John Paul II who canonised Maximilian Kolbe in 1982 called him ‘The patron saint of our difficult century.’

Next Sunday 16th  The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  (transferred from 15th )

In case you missed the Virtual Craft Fair, here is the address

http://vcf.clarepriory.org.uk/

Calling young thespians!

Jane Crone is helping the CAFOD education team to prepare an online assembly for young people between the ages of 8 and 18 years. It will be shown on the CAFOD You Tube channel from September. Last term’s first online assembly received 6,500 views!

To take part young people will need parental permission, film themselves saying a few words and to send their recording to CAFOD. If your family can help please contact Jane by email jcrone@cafod.org.uk for more information.

Thank you.

Jesus put out his hand at once and held him.

Today’s Gospel, Matthew 14: 29