



the arena Weekly newsletter

Issue 72 2020-18

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3 JULY
2020

Dear All,



JULY 12TH: CHURCH RE-OPENING DATE!
With a huge sense of relief we look forward to being able to be back in St James' on Sunday week for regular Sunday services. But the Church will not be quite as we have known it.

To make sure that we can use the building safely we have asked our good friends at A1 Facilities in Windsor Terrace to complete a deep clean and electrostatic sanitisation of the whole Church this coming Tuesday morning. In addition Nurcan our cleaner will resume her regular role as from the week beginning 13th July. Isabel has kindly been wiping door handles etc since the opening of the Church two weeks ago.

We have also taped off alternate rows of pews and the central aisle and set up a one way (clockwise) system for people to move around the Church with arrows etc on the floors.

From 12th July, and with all that in place, we will therefore be offering three Masses on Sundays:

- At 8am there will be the regular said Mass with sermon but no music.
- At 10am there will be a shortened Parish Mass - with our Sunday School opening again in the Hall. There will be recorded music on the 12th with Adam resuming his role as organist on the 19th although singing in the usual way will not be possible (- but humming might be..!)
- At 6pm the new evening Mass will be more informal with an evening meditation rather than a full sermon and will occasionally feature some live music. On the 12th July Lucy Haire will be playing some cello music and we hope to be able to continue this pattern depending on whether the congregation finds this third Sunday evening service worth supporting.

As detailed in Arena 71 Sunday School will need to adopt social distancing rules and we would ask that all children are accompanied by a parent/carer, at least in the first few weeks.

We appreciate this is all very experimental as we learn to grow into a 'post Covid-19' worshipping community once more. Do let us know what you would find most helpful.



MELANIE TOOGOOD who has become a regular member of St James' after her retirement and who lives behind the Church, had to undergo a major spinal operation at the Neurological Hospital in Queen's Square last week. Please remember her in your prayers.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 5 TRINITY 4	Joyce Owusu; Toni Parker; Jessica and Tayah Phillips
Mon 6 DEL Wk 14	Nick, Matilda and Barnaby Powell; Rosemary Ross
Tues 7 Feria	John, Hilary and Laura Roden and Hope Dixey
Wed 8 Feria	Chris, Kerry and Ben Sabine; Helen Schofield
Thurs 9 Feria	Sam, Joe, Charlie and Isla Seabrook; Susan and Eric Sorensen
Fri 10 Feria	Nick, Isabelle, Maxwell and Oscar Sharples; Vera Taggart
Sat 11 St Benedict	Alex, Claire, Kaitlin and Oliver Suksiri; Fr Stephen Taylor
Sun 12 TRINITY 5	Ken Thompson; Sergio Villicana and Cecilia Son-Vicente

BIRTHDAYS Very many happy return this coming week to Kaitlin Suksiri who will be 11 on Saturday, a day she shares with Luca Falcioni who will be 10.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY Warmest congratulations to Josh and Charlotte Kennedy (St Paul Road), whose sugar candy anniversary also falls on Saturday.



DAVE COLLINS MEMORIAL SERVICE We jumped the gun a bit last week to allow members of the local community (excluded by the current regulations to attend his funeral) to come into Church to celebrate the life of Dave Collins (Prebend Street). Twenty or so were in Church last Sunday night and to backing music by UB40, several spoke movingly of his generosity and his care for his granddaughter.

The screen in Church was a great help as we could project pictures as well as the words of the service so that no one had to handle any paper.



YOUTH THEME The final virtual 'Service of the Word', to be broadcast on You Tube this coming Sunday at 10am, features 14 of our young people at St James', plus Sergio Villicana our Mexican PhD student playing his guitar - and a sermon by the Bishop of Stepney, Joanne Grenfell, talking about the support we need to give to youth in the Church. The recordings took place on Friday 3rd and show the strength of our young people's ministry at the moment.

DO WATCH IT: www.stjamesislington.org/facebook/posts

As always it was an absolute delight working with each of them. In lots of cases we have watched them grow from babies into lively, fun and interesting people in their own right. We are also really grateful to their parents for bringing them to Church on a regular basis and we know how difficult this is when there are so many activities available on Sundays - as well the very real temptation to escape from London at weekends if possible.

FILMING From next Sunday (12th) the 10am Parish Mass will be filmed 'as is', and will then be available on YouTube/Facebook from 12noon each week. I am afraid it won't be as varied as the recent 'Services of the Word' - but these recordings also won't take up to four hours of editing time! After 16 weeks Sinead really does need to get her life back!

PCC MEETING The PCC meets via zoom again on Tuesday evening. On the Agenda is a review of what it has been like to 'be the Church' since March. Has St James' felt a million miles away; have any of the strategies to maintain a sense of community actually worked; what have we missed most during this period of lock-down?

The other issue we will need to think about is the gradual re-opening of the Hall for bookings. Adam has already received a number of enquiries for parties. We have also been asked if we can lend the kitchen to a group preparing meals for the poorer members of our community. As always we have to strike a balance between what we would like to do to help and making sure we continue to raise funds through Hall bookings. We are very grateful to the Hall Management Group for their advice.

DOCTOR DOCTOR Warmest congratulations to Rosemary's husband Sid Ross (Palmerston House) who has just been awarded a second doctorate, this time from York University, on 'Paul the Deacon', a wandering minstrel at the court of Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Emperor. Well, someone's got to do it!!

Keep safe!

Best wishes as ever,
John



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.