



# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



[www.gloucesteremaoc.com](http://www.gloucesteremaoc.com)

'Together, Reach Out and Welcome All with Joy, Compassion and Unfailing Love'

## COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT TO NEWSLETTERS

### A. What to do when there are no public masses or services.

**There will be no public masses anywhere in England and Wales until further notice. The Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday or a Holyday of Obligation is removed until further notice**

Parishioners may choose one of the following alternatives to attending Sunday/Weekday Mass in person.

### Joining a virtual Mass over the internet and other means:

- a) Fr Gerry's Skype Mass starts at 10am everyday indicated on the liturgy planner for that week from one of the Parish Churches or if needs be the Presbytery, You can do this by becoming part of the EMAOC Parishioners Group by either contacting Fr Gerry through your Skype Account at fathergerrywalsh or by using the url <https://join.skype.com/IMJtoOE71NTR> and joining as a guest, The Easter Triduum from English Martyrs will be available by the same means.
- b) Taking part by watching Mass online or on satellite or smart cable TVs and so receive Holy Communion spiritually. Check the diocesan website for details of Mass online from our Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul which will start everyday at 930am
- c) The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has a full daily programme including 3 Masses as follows: 8.30am – Morning Prayer, 9.30am – Holy Mass, 10.30am – Talk, 11.00am – Rosary, 12.00pm – Angelus and Holy Mass, followed by Adoration until 3.00pm. 3.00pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Rosary 3.45pm – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4.00pm – Spiritual Reading 5.00pm – Vespers, 6.00pm – Angelus and Holy Mass, followed by Rosary 8.00pm – Compline and Meditation. 8.30pm – All night Exposition. You can watch these live either via <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/> or probably more easily via their Youtube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ruKlnR-riJorule-3tuhg/featured> for live masses etc. If you can't join them live they are fairly quickly everything is fairly quickly added to their "Recordings" tab at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>
- d) Churchservices.tv is also a good website to visit to find other live masses at various times from various Churches they have a full schedule covering many hours of the day.
- e) The Redemptorists are offering Sunday Mass only which is posted online at 12 noon on Saturday see <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>.
- f) You can watch Mass on Youtube from Bishop Robert Baron's Chapel see <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/> these are live at 12.15pm each day and our uploaded for watching at other times
- g) EWTN offer live masses at various times for those who can get it on Freesat or Sky.

Regrettably there are no terrestrial or freeview channels which normally show live Catholic Masses or UK radio stations. If you have internet radio you can pick up radio masses from Ireland.

### Unable to Join a Virtual Mass:

If you cannot access a Mass virtually reflect of the Sunday Liturgical text, read the Bible, say the Rosary, praying the Prayer of the Church (Divine Office). The iBreviary app or universalis.com can be accessed to aid prayer or use Wednesday Word.

## **B. What's happening about other liturgical things**

Baptisms, confirmations will no longer be celebrated until such time when public health advice is that congregations can gather safely. First Holy Communion preparation is suspended and the First Holy Communion Masses are deferred till we can gather safely again

Anointing of the sick in danger of death or grave need can be performed by Fr Gerry at home or in hospital

Funeral services should now take place at either the graveside or crematorium. Arrangements for the Mass to be celebrated in memoriam can be arranged when congregations are allowed to gather safely

Confession may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed. Please note Mgr Liam can't hear confessions as he is in self-isolation because of his ongoing chemotherapy – see more on this with regards Easter Duties.

## **C. Easter Duties**

In their letter of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the President and the Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said "*in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.*"

Many of the faithful will be aware of their Easter Duties; that is to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. The Code of Canon Law (CIC 920) says *each of the faithful is obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season unless it is fulfilled for a just cause at another time during the year.* The requirement for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation comes from the need to be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion (CIC 916).

As it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that he continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for his children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

## **D. An Act of Contrition**

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

## **E. Prayer websites/apps**

Fr Gerry recommends and uses <https://hozana.org/en/prayer-space> <http://www.ibreviary.org/en/> <https://universalis.com/> all of which also offer an App.

## **F. Free Resources online**

Fr Gerry recommends two options <https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/> free to watch until 31<sup>st</sup> August and [www.formed.org/faithathome](http://www.formed.org/faithathome) which is free for 40 days from when you start. Others like the Bible Society and Redemptorists are also offering free resources at this time

## **G. Other useful Websites**

The following might be of help during these times: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com). [www.vatican.va/en.html](http://www.vatican.va/en.html) or for livestreaming their English YouTube media channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJHI8bI0LWg> [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv). [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv). [www.cbcew.org](http://www.cbcew.org)