

Covid-19 Important update @ 24 March 2020

Coronavirus Pandemic @ 24 Mar 2020

- There is **no** public celebration of Masses
- Private celebration by the clergy alone – **no** additional people present
- All public worship is suspended - **no** public worship
- Churches, chapels and associated halls are **closed to the public**

These have

- immediate effect ;
- and remain in place until further notice

The Catholic Church in England and Wales, is following the national guidance and following the Prime Minister's address to the Nation on 23 Mar, all churches are to closed to the public until further notice



The Church is closed, **NOT OPEN** as of today (24 March 2020) and is **no longer open** for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, as before.

For further information please visit:

<http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/>

<https://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/>

Please also view/download:

<p>Archdiocese of Southwark</p> <p>Statement from Archbishop John Wilson</p> <p>To the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Southwark following the Prime Minister's Address to the Nation concerning the Coronavirus</p> <p><i>(A PDF copy of this statement is available by clicking here)</i></p> <p></p> <p>Statement from Archbishop John Wi</p> <p>23 Mar 2020</p> <p>Also reproduced – page 3 of this Notice</p>	<p>A copy of the Public Letter to the Catholic Church in England and Wales from the President and Vice President of the Bishops' Conference</p> <p></p> <p>Public Letter to the Catholic Church in E</p> <p>18 Mar 2020</p>
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Whilst there are **no** public celebration of Masses, public worships or gatherings at St. Mary's; please join on-line for Masses and prayers.

Click the link below:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-catholic-church-our-lady-of-reparation-croydon>

The link/"watch Mass live" are also available direct from this parish web site <http://saint-mary.org.uk/>

Please follow the official directive to stay at home and all health information:

- <https://111.nhs.uk/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

In the meantime:-

- it is still the **Year of the Word**, so let's be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer (**Rom: 12:12**) as we pray without ceasing (**1 Thess 5: 17**) and are raised up by **Psalms 91**.
- The Holy Father calls the world to Pray in response to Coronavirus

Wed 25 Mar 2020
The Annunciation of Our Lord
Say the Our Father @ 12 noon

- We are also consecrated to **Our Lady** and as we prepare for the **Rededication of England as the Dowry of Our Lady**, do join on-line

Sun 29 Mar @ 12 noon
<https://www.behold2020.com/>

We fly to thy patronage,
O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in our necessities,

but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Archdiocese of Southwark
Statement from Archbishop John Wilson

**To the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Southwark following the
Prime Minister's Address to the Nation concerning the Coronavirus**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ

In his Address to the Nation the Prime Minister outlined the necessary steps that we must now take to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. The Government has mandated the 'closure of all shops selling non-essential goods, including clothing and electronic stores, and other premises including libraries, playgrounds and outdoor gyms, and places of worship.'

This means that, until further notice, and with immediate effect, all the churches and chapels within the Archdiocese of Southwark, together with their associated halls, must now close their doors to the public. This policy must be implemented without exception. It is imperative that we, the clergy, consecrated religious, and laity of the Archdiocese of Southwark, comply fully with these directives. This is an essential component of our contribution to fighting the Coronavirus and living out the Lord Jesus' commandment to 'love our neighbour.' (Mk 12:31)

Given that our priests live adjacent to their churches, there will still be the private celebration of Mass each day, but there must be no additional people present other than the priest himself. The doors to all our churches and chapels must remain permanently locked until these restrictions are lifted.

The Prime Minister also stated that all social events, including weddings, baptisms and other ceremonies, but excluding funerals, must cease. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have already put in place restrictive measures in relation to baptisms, marriages and funerals which must continue to be followed.

Although we are socially isolated from each other, we are not isolated from Christ. Now is a time to strengthen our spiritual bonds of connection through personal prayer and the intensification of our inner relationship with Christ. We will continue to use social media to sustain our communal online presence, with the live-streaming of Mass and devotions from different churches within our Archdiocese and beyond. For the time being, our buildings must close; but our hearts must open wider, expanding with love for Christ and others.

Dear friends, the yearning in our hearts for the Eucharist and for fellowship with one another must sustain us until we come, once more, to gather at the altar to offer together the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We take inspiration from the Apostle St Paul writing to the first Christians in Rome: '...hardship develops perseverance, perseverance develops character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint, since the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.' (Rom 5:3-5) We are people of profound hope. We will remain firm in faith and generous in charity, through Christ the 'hope of glory,' alive within us. (cf. Col 1:27)

Let us pray for all those working to overcome the effects of the Coronavirus and all those affected by it. Please also be sure of my prayers for you, for your families and for your loved ones. And, please, pray for me and all your bishops, priests, and deacons, who hold you in their hearts and prayers.

With every blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ
+John

The Most Reverend John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark

Given at Archbishop's House, Southwark, 23 March 2020

