



Our Lady of Reparation
St. Mary's RC Church
West Croydon

Parish Priest
Fr. Patrick Feyisetan

**Church now open
for individual prayer**



Welcome back! and Welcome to St. Mary's!

Today, **Friday 19th June 2020**, is the **Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** and what a wonderful day to re-open our Church doors for individual prayer; we can now **"Adore the Lord in His holy court!"**

We will start, with the Church being open for individual prayer on:

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays - 1pm to 5pm; and
- Sundays 2pm to 5pm.

Further updates will be posted on our parish web site as we move forward.

There will be Parish Stewards to guide your physical attendance and we have made all provision for a safe, socially distanced, hygienic & cleaned Church which meets the Southwark Archdiocesan re-opening Guidance.

If you are able, you are most welcome to come along. We do ask that you observe all the requirements and follow the signage regarding entrance & exit, hand sanitation, socially distanced seating, movement & direction in the Church.

Just a gentle reminder that this is for silent, individual prayer only. Parents need to accompany and supervise their young people who are under 16 years of age so that the family remain together. **We regret that there are no toilet facilities owing to infection control and there are no other usual parish activities or accessible areas.**

If possible, we do ask that you try to come on the hour for your prayer because whilst the Church will be kept cleaned during the opening, we will specifically clean every 45 minutes so that the Church is free and the areas are cleaned and ready for hourly arrivals/those waiting.


We will fully clean the Church at 5pm when the daily session ends and to aid this, the last admittance time will be 4.50pm.

All our live stream Masses and Prayer times are still taking place on-line. We especially want to extend a very warm welcome to all those from the parish and further, even overseas, participating on-line in the Holy Mass and continue to welcome you as part of our parish community.

Glory and praise to God for this first phase of re-opening.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Patrick Feyisetan
Parish Priest

Related:	
<i>Click here</i>	<i>See below</i>
<p>Bishops' Conference Guidance</p>  <p>pdf CBCEW Church Re-open Guide Jun</p> <p>https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/06/Guidance-Reopening-Catholic-Churches-Indiv-Prayer-100620-1633.pdf</p>	<p>Archbishop of Southwark Most Revd. John Wilson Pastoral Letter, Re-open, Catholic Churches, Individual Prayer</p>

Pastoral Letter
**Concerning the Reopening of Catholic Churches
for Individual Prayer**

*'Give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of His name.
Adore the Lord in His holy court.'*(Ps 29)

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, our country, and, in different ways, each of our lives. For some this has been devastating, with loss of life and serious illness. Throughout these past months we have prayed for everyone who has died, and for their families and loved ones. We are continuing to pray for all our keyworkers who serve with such selfless generosity. And we pray for our local, national, and global community, as we rebuild our future together. Perhaps we are learning not to take so much for granted and to focus more on who and what matters most. Please God, moving forward, we will treat each other with greater kindness, with greater respect, and with greater love.

As we know, places of worship, including Catholic churches, were closed by the Government to control the spread of the Coronavirus infection and save lives. As the restrictions have begun to be relaxed, we are very grateful that permission has now been given for places of worship to reopen for individual prayer from Monday 15 June. This can only happen, however, if all the necessary hygiene and social distancing measures have been put in place. We welcome this first step towards the restoration, in due course, of public liturgical celebrations with a congregation.

The Government's permission to open our churches for visits for individual prayer enables us to draw closer to Christ who is really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Our sacramental yearning, for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, now finds deeper anticipation as, once again, we are able to pray in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. It is a beautiful providence that our churches are allowed to open the day after *Corpus Christi*, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. There is a longstanding Catholic tradition of visits to the Blessed Sacrament and prayers before the Tabernacle. We are now invited to revive these with new devotion.

For any church to open from 15 June, strict requirements must be put in place which have been communicated to every parish in the Archdiocese. To be allowed to open their church, each parish will need to satisfy all the necessary conditions outlined.

This means that not every church will open immediately, and some churches may remain closed for the time being. The days and times which churches can open will also vary. I know that many people have been frustrated that our churches have been closed. Together, patiently, we can now begin opening them, wherever possible, and as soon as possible. We share the same desire to unlock the doors to the Lord's house. This must, however, be managed properly and safely.

During this time of pandemic, I am immensely grateful for the remarkable ways in which parishes, schools, individuals, and families are sustaining the life of faith. I want to express a special word of thanks to the priests in the Archdiocese who have continued to celebrate Holy Mass each day in closed churches, without congregations, some of them live-streaming the liturgy, catechesis, prayers and devotions. We all look forward to being able to gather again in our churches, especially for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Until this is possible, as best we can, we will open our churches for individual prayer.

As we enter our churches, to '*adore the Lord in his holy court*,' we carry with us, in our prayer and in our hearts, the needs of everyone in the communities where we live, that peace, justice, and healing will touch our lives and our world.

With the assurance of my prayers and every blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ
+*John Wilson*

The Most Reverend John Wilson
Archbishop of Southwark
Given at Archbishop's House, Southwark, 11 June 2020,
the Memoria of St Barnabas the Apostle