

Banning public worship from 5 Nov 2020

The Catholic Church in England has strongly criticised the government's new lockdown, saying banning communal worship is a cause of "anguish".

England's four-week lockdown will see most religious services banned. Funerals will still be allowed, with a maximum of 30 attending.

The Catholic Church Bishops' Conference has demanded the government give its reasons for stopping services.

Announcement at all Masses at St Mary's today for those of you that may have missed it: 'The Bishops Conference of England & Wales have released a statement where they wish to make it **clear that government has the profound responsibility to show why it has taken this particular decision** – prohibit this celebration of the Liturgy, to do otherwise, would risk losing the goodwill and the unity needed at this difficult time.

Considering the fact that Catholics have acted with great care and responsibility in the way Churches have reopened, thus enabling the essential worship of God to be celebrated in a safe and organised way. The draft legislation of the lockdown is due to be brought before Parliament, tomorrow, Monday 2nd November. Our Archbishop John Wilson has urged **all of us**, to raise this matter with our Member of Parliament * asking that questions be raised in the house regarding the publication of the data which has driven this regrettable decision to cease public worship.'

In the meantime, listen out for reliable news reports and check the parish website.

Please write to your MP... if not we may be celebrating Christmas in lockdown, there is no guarantee it will end in four weeks, please encourage all eligible members of your household to write to your MP....I am sending this email to all parishioners (250+) in my distribution list, so please take a couple of minutes to take action.....

***who is your MP?**

Croydon Central Sarah Jones: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4631/contact>

Facebook : <https://t.co/rUoFn86qN3?amp=1>

Croydon North Steve Reed: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4268/contact>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SteveReedMP>

Croydon South Chris Philip: chris.philip.mp@parliament.uk

If you live outside Croydon please check who your MP is and write to them.

I have copied the following from Twitter, with permission from the author to use it, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME TO ACTyou can use the script below as it is or adapt to suit yourself or just write from the heart.... PLEASE don't miss this opportunity to let the government know how you feel about the restrictions on public worship.....

New National Restrictions from 5th November

I am writing regarding the draft legislation that will be placed before parliament tomorrow Monday, 2nd November. Within this legislation is the proposal for the cessation of public common worship.

Such legislation needs to be based on firm evidence that the banning of communal worship is a productive part of combatting the virus. I am not aware of any such evidence.

Places of worship in the UK during the pandemic have supported many vulnerable and isolated people who have been sustained by acts of common worship.

Churches have rigorously followed the Corona virus hygiene guidance and have had fewer attendees than the building holds, allowing for generous social distancing.

*If there is no evidence that banning public common worship contributes to combatting the virus, **I ask that you vote against any legislation to ban common worship.** This will provide much needed wellbeing and spiritual support to many people at this time of great need.*