

Dear St Joseph's

On 4th November 2020, Parliament passed into law The Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. These are currently in force up to Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

The regulations preclude gatherings for communal worship, including the celebration of Mass, baptisms and most weddings. St Joseph's church will therefore be closed for all public, communal and congregational worship. In line with the guidelines it will be open, on a limited basis, for private personal prayer.

Whilst the new regulations are in force, the opening times over the coming four weeks of the Lockdown will be:

Wednesday morning, for one hour, from 10am to 11am.

Saturday morning, for two hours from 10am to 12 noon

Sunday morning, for two hours, from 10am to 12 noon

To keep us safe, we will be limiting the number of individuals inside the church to a maximum of 15 at any one time. If there are more than 15 people, you will be asked to wait in a queue outside the church and will be permitted to enter after one person from inside has left the church.

Large sections of the church will be cordoned off and seating will be limited to one section of the pews only.

The routines of sanitizing, stewarding and social distancing to which we have been accustomed, and which have made our church a place of Covid security, will continue to be maintained. If you come to church, please ensure that you have a face covering on at all times, except if you are medically exempt. Hands must be sanitized before entering the church. And please maintain two meter distancing inside the church and in the area just outside.

For Track and Trace purposes, we are required to take your name and a contact telephone number. Or, you can use the NHS track and trace App QR codes upon arrival.

Our diligent Stewards will be on hand to assist and we urge you to follow their guidance as they continue to do their best to ensure that we stay safe and secure in these challenging times.

The Passionist Community at St Joseph's will remember you in their prayers and will continue to offer Holy Mass for your deceased loved ones every day during November– the month of the Holy Souls - but this must take place without a congregation. Do join the Sacrifice of Christ daily in your prayers and especially in Spiritual Communion.

Fr George and the Parish Covid 19 Taskforce