

Worship in Lockdown 3

I want to begin by reassuring you of the support and prayers of all of us in the Parish Ministry Team as you come to terms with what Lockdown means to you.

We are aware that for some of us this will be an uncomfortable time and would encourage you to be in touch with us and let us know how best we can support and help you over the coming weeks.

You may also be aware that this time Lockdown leaves Churches in a strange position. We are permitted to remain open for communal worship if we wish to.

The Ministry Team, Standing Committee and others have been exploring what this might mean for us as a community.

As always, we have been guided by our principles of ensuring we are **providing as safe a space as possible for all of us** and to support us **being with God and each other**.

The discussions have explored how we respond to 3 areas – **our spiritual well-being, our mental well-being and our physical safety**.

These have been looked at in the context of how we best express **our love and care for each member of our community**,

The problem has been that each option we have considered has met one of these areas, but not the other two.

In the end we have agreed the following as the way forward – and is something which we will keep under review over the coming weeks as situations change and develop.

From Noon on Weds 6th

To meet **the spiritual well being** we will ensure that **St Mary's is open every day from 9am – Noon for private prayer**. On **Sundays** it will be open from **8am – 9.30 and then from 11am – Noon**.

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If you wish to find space for stillness, prayer and reflection then please do come, but in doing so please so follow all the guidance.

If you are vulnerable or shielding, then please follow the guidance you are given about staying at home.

If you have any symptoms or feel unwell then also, please respect others and remain at home.

When you arrive at Church go straight to a space and remain there till you are ready to leave.

If you need to talk to a minister then please contact us by phone or email and we will arrange a conversation with you

To address **the physical well-being** because of the transmission rates of the virus at present and the need to restrict contact and transmission from one household to another **we will be ceasing public worship in the 3 Churches** from today.

We will stream a **Noon Eucharist each day (Monday to Friday) and a Sunday celebration at 10am.** (but these will not be attended by anyone other than those leading the worship)

If you need assistance to access these then please do not hesitate to contact us and we will help you.

Finally, to support **the mental well-being** we will be **increasing the opportunities to meet together on Zoom** for conversations and other activities - please contact us if you would like to take part.

The Standing Committee was unanimous in having concerns about exposing people to risks by meeting together for worship and feel this is the best way to meet those concerns.

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With best wishes

Father Bob

Revd Canon Bob White

Vicar of St Mary's , Portsea and Area Dean of Portsmouth

St Mary's Vicarage

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Portsmouth

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Worship in Lockdown 3

Streamed Services

- Sunday Eucharist 10am from St Mary's
- Said Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon
- Saturday at noon is Saturday Stillness with music, a reading and prayers by the clergy and a reflection by Fr Bruce.

You can pick up live streams on our portseaparish.co.uk/live-services, our [Youtube Channel](#), or if you have a facebook account on the St Mary's Facebook page at facebook.com/PortseaParish. There is a Daily Reflection available at portseaparish.co.uk/daily-reflections each day.

The service sheet for Eucharist services during the Christmas Season is [available here](#).

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Worship in Church

There will be no public worship in any of the 3 Churches in St Mary's Parish. **St Mary's is open every day from 9am – Noon for private prayer.** On **Sundays** it will be open from **8am – 9.30** and then from **11am – Noon.**

For special services see the [Events List](#).

Venues

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA. Tel: 023 9281 4444

Free parking in church grounds. Rail: Fratton station (0.6 miles). Bus 14, 18, 21 (3, 7, 23 stop nearby).

Wheelchair access to church.

St Faith's Church, Crasswell Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1HT. Tel: 023 9282 7322

St Wilfrid's Church, George St, Portsmouth PO1 5RT. Tel: 023 9282 2687.