



THE PARISH
OF ST PETER
& THE WINCHESTER MARTYRS

Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th

Hello everyone

This is to update you on how the new lockdown regulations will affect church-going.



In other lockdown periods the church was closed to the public, or open only for private prayer, but to our surprise and delight this time we are **able to stay open and hold services**.

That said, we want everyone to stay safe and take due care: we – all of us - have been given a responsibility by being allowed to continue going to church so it's important that we observe the social distancing regulations. We've had a trust placed in us, and we must respect that – that's the only way we can keep our churches open.

We won't be changing any service times over the next few days – the calendar sent out at the end of last week will still hold ([see it here](#)). After the weekend Fr Mark will look at how things are going before making any further decisions, in discussion with the Senior Leadership Team.

If you can still come to church safely, please do so, bearing in mind safe behaviour in all ways – it's particularly important that you keep your distance from those in the congregation from other households, and don't socialise or stop and chat with them at the end of Mass, either inside or outside church. Please: wave, nod, smile and greet from a distance. We know how hard

that is, none of us likes it, but we have to observe the rules in the hope of a better future...

And remember that **all services from St Peter's are livestreamed**, so you can watch them in safety at home – definitely the best option if you have any doubts, or if you or those you live with are vulnerable. This is the link for live services:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbGgrcbDyLY75pmCAopfLlg/live>

We'll be looking to see **if any changes are needed** in the services and times – so let us know any views you have on that: you can reply to this email, & we will listen to everyone.

We know that parishioners will be **looking out for others** who need extra help at this time: and of course let us know if you, or anyone you know, needs additional assistance that we can help with, be it practical or spiritual.

We will continue to **light candles** for anyone's intentions – send us an email or a message via [Facebook](#) – and we'll be doing the usual **shoutouts from the sanctuary** at the Sunday 10am livestream from St Peter's - again send us a message in any of the usual ways.

We'll be keeping you informed via newsletter and website, and the Facebook page is one of the best ways to keep in touch, or to get a quick response from us. Even if you are not big on social media, it might be worth considering as it has proved invaluable over lockdown, with huge connection and engagement. It's a great way to lift your day with a message, a prayer, music or art, or to chat to other parishioners. [St Peter And The Winchester Martyrs | Facebook](#)

Please – stay in touch, take care of yourselves and each other, and let's commit to all praying for each other.

Blessings

Fr Mark and the Senior Leadership Team

(Dcn Gerard Dailly, Mike Elks, Allegra Mutanda, Moira Redmond)

Prayer Corner: Let us pray that we will learn to be like God who listens, loves and heals so that we may show God's compassion and mercy to those around us.

