



1. **Trinity Sunday.** This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – celebrating the love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as revealed to us in the Sacred Scriptures, and as depicted above in the painting by Guido Reni
2. **Stewards needed.** We are now appealing for stewards to help during the month of June. The 'Doodle' to sign up is below.

<https://doodle.com/poll/z87xyxmdkddadfk7>

Please note that, in the light of the updated Bishops' guidance (see below) we no longer require stewards at the 8.00 am Mass on Sundays, since numbers are low and can be self-regulating. We remain very grateful to all those who generously give of their time and effort to ensure we can keep the church open for Mass, and to make it a safe place for all.

3. **Changes to COVID measures in church.** As you all know, on May 17<sup>th</sup> the government announced a further relaxation of the lockdown which came into force when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. This change in rules will affect our parish as

well. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued guidance to help us move forward in this new phase of the pandemic, and we are following this guidance in our procedures here at Holy Ghost.

For the time being, many of the measures we put in place last year must remain in force. For example – those attending church must wear a face covering (unless under the age of 12, or exempt) – hand sanitiser should be used on entering and leaving church – and the ‘track and trace’ protocols must be followed. We are not yet permitted to have Holy Water at the doors of the church, nor to have congregational singing at Mass. However, you will also notice some changes.

Most notably, we are removing the strings cutting off access to every other pew, so that all our benches can be used. These strings were put up last summer when the government guidance advised a two-metre distance between households. The rule now is ‘one-meter plus’ (i.e., one metre distancing plus wearing a face covering). Implementing the new guidance allows us to use all our benches and increase the capacity of our church – which is now very important since in recent weeks we have regularly been turning away people away from Sunday Mass, especially at the 11.30 and 6.00 Masses.

Secondly, we can reduce some of the cleaning and sanitising which we have been doing since re-opening the church last July. The Bishops advise that the church need not be cleaned more than once a day. Moreover, it is only necessary to clean ‘touch points’ – in other words areas touched by people with their bare skin. In effect, this means cleaning the backs of the pews where people rest their hands, but not the seats or kneelers. This change in procedure is a common-sense measure which will save our stewards considerable time and trouble.

Under the new guidance, up to thirty people may attend a baptism or a funeral. For a funeral, or for the celebration of Confirmation, the parish may permit a larger number, so long as the ‘one-metre plus’ rule is maintained.

Hopefully, we can look forward to a further relaxation of the rules when the government reviews its regulations again on June 21<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime, we would like to thank all our parishioners for their continuing loyalty and support, and once again to extend our special gratitude to our stewards, for making our church a safe place to worship in these present times.

4. **Devotions for Corpus Christi.** The Solemnity of *Corpus Christi* – the feast of the Holy Eucharist – is kept this year on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June. To mark this great feast, and to honour the Blessed Sacrament, we will have half an hour’s Eucharistic Adoration every weekday following, from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June: Adoration will take place from 6.00 – 6.30 pm, ending with Benediction. Please come along, to spend a little time with the Lord, and to offer your prayers for all in need.

5. The **monthly recollection for women** will take place at Holy Ghost on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June from 9 am to 11:30 am.

The theme will be: St Josemaria Escriva: a life in Christ.

The timetable will be as follows:

9 am Rosary

9.30 am Holy Mass

10.00 am Adoration

10.15 am First meditation

10.45 am Personal prayer

11.00 am Second Meditation

Confession will be possible before and after meditations.

6. **Diocesan call to prayer.** Archbishop John is calling us to be an 'evangelising and missionary archdiocese.' None of this will be possible without prayer. As we pray for our Church, we also pray that we may be renewed ourselves. Let us pray that we may know more deeply the love of God for us and the hope he gives, so that others may also encounter him. Are you interested in joining our prayer partners praying for the mission of the archdiocese? Email [aec@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aec@rcaos.org.uk).
7. **Gift Aid.** For those of you who use the Gift Aid envelopes for your weekly donations, **the new boxes of envelopes have arrived.** They run from June when the old boxes run out (apart from some spares). During the restrictions many parishioners have made out generous standing orders and these now make the larger part of the regular donations to the parish. However, for those who want to continue with envelopes and would like to get their new set, please contact the Gift Aid organiser, Denis Cross, [balhamgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:balhamgac@rcaos.org.uk), tel. 020 8682 0988, to arrange delivery. Please also tell him if you have been an envelope member and now have decided to change to standing order/bankers' payments.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni