**Cessation of public liturgies:** The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses, has agreed that the cessation of public liturgies should begin from Friday evening 20th March 2020. Because of the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.

**Celebrations of Holy Mass**

Priests who hold parochial office should continue to Celebrate Mass in a church within their parish without the faithful on a daily basis. Deacons should not participate in these celebrations. **SO MASSES WILL BE STILL SAID FOR YOUR INTENTIONS REGULARLY BUT PRIVATELY. Any mass requests may be dropped into the presbytery.**

The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (1364): *As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which 'Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out.* Daily liturgical resources for those at home, including those for making a “Spiritual Communion” with the priest, will be available on the CBCEW website. [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

Information about the live-streaming of the celebration of Mass: A fine example of this is from The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will continue its full liturgical programme and this will be available to all via the Internet ([www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk))

**Personal prayer**: Our church will remain open every day, for individual private prayer, without any organised services, and offering prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Sundays: 9.00am – 1.00pm**

**Weekdays: 9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Sacraments and sacramental:** All the above stands cancelled until further notice. In case of emergency please always ring Fr. Sabu at the presbytery or Rev. Kevin on phone. We will arrange the needed.

**First communion program**: is put on hold until further notice and we need to work out how things evolve under the Covid-19 crisis.

**Sycamore For Lent** – is cancelled with regret. We will look to a future course, when the Covid-19 crisis abates.  Please pray for the Sycamore team and the programme at St Augustine's, and for the parish and wider community in these troubled times.

**Caring for each other:** in this difficult time, we need to support each other to overcome this difficulty. All will come to pass. So if you are someone isolating, living alone or having difficulties to carry on with your daily living and would appreciate being supported by someone please do **call 01245465333** or if you are someone who think can offer support in the form of doing shopping for someone else or posting letters or talking on phone with someone who would love to have a conversation please do let us know your availability by ringing **01245465333.**

Some useful information to nourish your faith online and on TV

Brentwood Diocese: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net>

Please find a link to the Diocesan news page, where we have published an article with recommendations for parents with school-aged children to enable them to continue to worship in the home, and continue to mark the season of Lent / Easter period with their families without gathering publicly for mass.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales: [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham: [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

Vatican website: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

TV channel: EWTN (sky: 588)

Eternal Word Television Network: www.ewtn.co.uk

**For regular updates and church news go to** [www.staugustine-springfield.com](http://www.staugustine-springfield.com)

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