

19th January Heating Update (Fixed) and Resumption of Public Liturgies (?)

Thank you for your patience while we have been closed due the multiple boiler failures. The heating at both Churches and the Presbytery have now been fixed and the boilers are working once again. It will take at least another 24 hours for the buildings to return to appropriate temperatures. Fr Rajesh and I will return from Seaford to the Presbytery on Thursday.

At St Mary Magdalene, one boiler required a new fan and the other a new circuit board. After reaching out directly to the manufacturer, they diagnosed the problem and replaced the parts. At St Martha's, the manufacturer diagnosed that there was a blockage in the gas intake pipe, deposits which had built up over time. They have cleaned the pipes and restarted the boiler.

Resumption of Public Liturgies?

Public worship is permitted in Lockdown 3, providing we can maintain our robust levels of stewarding, social distancing, and cleanliness. We note that some Churches locally in Brighton, St Leonards and Hastings have closed either because they cannot maintain the stewarding levels or as a precaution to public health. Having spoken with the Bishop, we have reached out to our stewards to see what their feelings are and what their availability is.

Once stewarding replies have been collated, we will announce in the newsletter (published Friday mornings) what our public Masses will be going forward for the next period, reviewed every 3 weeks. It is likely that it will be a reduced schedule than before.

Please remember that the obligation to hear Mass on a Sunday is currently suspended, so no one should feel compelled to be physically present at Mass, it is perfectly reasonable for you to stay at home if you have any concerns about your health and wellbeing.

If you do wish to come to a scheduled public Mass, please remember to complete the track and trace, use the hand sanitiser, and maintain social distance. By law you must wear a face covering over mouth and nose (unless you are exempt); you must not mix with anyone outside your household or bubble inside the Church or outside the Church; you should not car share.

Where a Mass cannot be celebrated publicly it will either be Live Streamed on Facebook or said privately. Requiem Masses continue to have priority over all other Masses and Intentions.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes,
Fr Simon.