

# Celebrating Sunday Mass

From Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of March, there will normally be only one Mass here at St Joseph's Dorking on a Sunday morning.<sup>1</sup> We are making this change to enhance our ability to celebrate the Sunday liturgy, to increase our sense of community, and to 'future proof' the parish. This will entail some changes. Changes involving ministries are already being addressed. On this sheet I want to address some practical questions that will affect all of us.

## Getting to Church

In Dorking, unlike many Victorian churches, we are fortunate have a modest car park. However it is not big enough to hold the cars of all the congregation.<sup>2</sup> So we wish to reserve the car park for those who genuinely need to park close to the church (for example drivers who cannot walk very far and people bringing equipment to church). So:

- **If you can, leave the car at home.** As we consider our impact on the environment this is more than simply about the availability of parking space. Rather it is one aspect of us thinking more deeply about our environmental responsibility. If you can walk or cycle, do! There is a cycle rack at the church and we will provide more if needed. Another option is public transport. There are busses from the Leatherhead and Reigate directions early enough to get to the 10am Mass.
- **Share transport.** If you live in the outer reaches of the parish and drive in with a half empty car, consider offering a lift to someone who lives in the same area or who is 'on the way'. Once again this also helps reduce our environmental impact
- **Don't try to use the church car park if you don't need to.** The municipal car parks in Dorking are free on a Sunday, and should be fairly empty before 10am on a Sunday. The nearest, South Street, is only a 5 minute walk from the church. If the driver wants to drop passengers off at the church then we will be facilitating that via a
- **Drop off point.** There will be a drop off point created just by the passage between the church and the presbytery. For this to work we will need to implement a
- **One-way system.** Please enter Falkland Grove from the Hampstead Road end and leave at the junction with Coldharbour Lane. We will put up temporary signage to encourage this. Please be patient with other drivers – they are your fellow parishioners!

## In Church

- **Seating.** It is possible that you have always sat in the same seat in church every Sunday at the 9am Mass since 1970. There may be someone who has always sat in that same seat at the 11am Mass since 1968. You may therefore arrive and find **SOMEONE IS IN MY SEAT!!** Try to be a little flexible.

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<sup>1</sup> There will be occasions, such as Easter Sunday and First Holy Communion, when we will have two Masses on a Sunday morning.

<sup>2</sup> The working party considered suggesting building a multi storey car park, but decided that was not a viable option!

- **Priority seating.** The seats at the front of the church on the left without kneelers are there for people who need them. For example, those who are less able to get into the pews, wheelchair users and their companions, and people with baby buggies who want their child to remain in the buggy. Please leave them free for such people.
- **Quiet.** More people generally means more noise, and while we don't want to discourage social interaction, equally we also want to encourage prayerful quiet at times. We suggest therefore that **as far as possible, observe a time of prayerful silence in the 5 minutes before Mass starts.** If you do need to speak to someone, do so quietly and keep it brief. And while it is great to greet people at the end of Mass, please, **after Mass if you want to have an extended conversation, move out of the church.** By 5 minutes after Mass the only people in church should be those who have stayed to pray, and those who are tidying up. Talking of which....
- **Tidying up.** It would be great help if, at the end of Mass, you could return any hymn books and unwanted newsletters etc. to the entrances of the church, return the Mass cards to the end of the benches, and take all your own stuff with you. If it wasn't in the bench when you arrived, it shouldn't be there when you leave!

## After Mass

- **There will be refreshments in the hall.** There will be refreshment 'stations' in both halls, with tables set out café style at one end of each. Children are of course welcome to play in the large hall, but not to run around amongst coffee/tea drinkers for safety reasons! Please avoid any boisterous play in the Taunton Room.
- **There will be a 'parish office and information' desk.** This will be in the Taunton Room and Penny, as a part of her work as parish secretary, will be there to respond to any questions and requests (within reason!).

I really do hope and believe this change is going to be a positive and exciting development for our parish, but there are likely to be a few adjustments in the early stages. So I ask for your prayerful patience and flexibility.

God Bless

*Fr. Tony*