

Cathedral Life Weekly | 1st Sunday after Trinity, 14th June 2020

A Message from The Dean: Reopening the Cathedral

Chelmsford Cathedral is re-opening for personal prayer and reflection on **4th July** and will then be open every day from 11 am to 3 pm.

I am delighted to announce that Chelmsford Cathedral is re-opening for personal prayer and reflection on 4th July. The Cathedral will then be open daily from 11 am to 3 pm. This is a great moment, and it is important to stress that is just a first step. Public worship will not resume for some time to come, but it has been wonderful to welcome so many joining us on-line for the daily prayer. That will continue to be streamed live on Facebook at 7.45 am and 5.15 pm every day, with the Eucharist streamed on Sundays at 10.30 am.

From 4th July the interior of the Cathedral will be laid out in a different way. This is to comply fully with guidance from the Government and from the Church of England. We are determined to ensure that everyone who visits the Cathedral can do so in full confidence that it is a safe and secure environment.

A one-way system will be in operation through the Cathedral, with everyone entering through the South Door and leaving through the North Door. There will be handwash at the door which everyone must use, and certain areas will not be accessible, including the vestry block. Any seating in the Cathedral will be appropriately distanced, and every chair will be cleaned after every use, in accordance with the guidelines. Numbers in the Cathedral at any one time will be limited to a maximum of 20. Clergy and vergers will be on duty in the Cathedral.

Within these constraints, we are seeking to present the Cathedral as a beautiful quiet place for personal reflection and prayer, with candles to light and space to pray.

This is an important first step as we seek to serve our community going forward. Please check the website regularly for updates. The following page answers some of the questions, many of you may have.

With my thanks and best wishes.



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FAQs:

- Why is the Cathedral not opening on 15 June?
Cathedrals and churches across the country must be completely satisfied that they have everything in place before they open to the public. Some Cathedrals and churches are opening on 15 June; others on 22 June; others – like Chelmsford – on 4 July. And some Cathedrals and churches have decided that they will not be able to open until much later. For a church to be open, it needs to be properly cleaned, to have clear signage and supervision in place and socially distanced seating; there needs to be hand gel for everyone at the entrance, and above all the building needs to be properly staffed both to welcome visitors and monitor numbers. Although we have been planning towards opening for some time, we cannot guarantee that everything will be ready any earlier than 4 July. Until late last week Government guidance was still that the earliest that places of worship would be allowed to open would be 4 July. It is still the case that places of worship of other faith traditions are not yet planning to open at all. We are aware that people are very eager to be back in the Cathedral as soon as possible and will be disappointed with our decision to delay opening until 4 July, but we want to be confident that everything necessary is in place.

- When will full public worship resume?
Under the Government and church guidelines there are as yet no plans for public worship to resume, and it is impossible to speculate about when that will change.

- Will online worship and teaching still carry on?
Online worship and teaching have been a very important part of the Cathedral's ministry. It has attracted a very wide range of people and had a very positive response. We fully intend to continue this ministry and to develop it further. Please visit the Church at Home page and the Growing in Prayer page in the Cathedral website to find out more.

- Will the toilets be open?
There will be no access to the toilets or the kitchen at this stage.

- Do I need to use a facemask if I visit the Cathedral?
No – but if you wish to wear a facemask you are welcome to do so.

- How can I donate to support the ministry of Chelmsford Cathedral?
If you are visiting the Cathedral, there are now contactless giving points for you to use in the building. On-line giving is also available. Simply visit the Cathedral website and you will find the link to our on-line giving at the bottom of the home page.

**Holy God,
as we open our doors
and welcome in those who will come
may we recognise you among them.
As we make our churches safer to enter
and care for those who come
may we recognise you as our strong defence.
As we say our prayers
and light our candles
may we recognise you in our midst.
As we resume our life
and live our life
may we recognise you as our life
today, tomorrow, and always.
Amen.**

A prayer by the Dean of Southwark



Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel: 14 June 2020

Romans 5.1-8
Ps 100
Matthew 9.35 – 10.8

Lord, you are my help; my Saviour God.

In today's readings we are encouraged to trust in a God who has already saved us and who calls us his very own. Despite what may be going on around us, we are his people and we are loved with an everlasting love. That love has been shown by the way in which Christ died for us while we were still helpless and unworthy (Romans 5).

The heart of Christ, and, therefore, the heart of God, is full of compassion for us (Gospel reading). This, surely, is the source of our 'joyful trust'. Because God has given to us so freely, so we should freely give in return.

This week let's entrust ourselves ever more deeply to the loving compassion of God. May it lift us up on eagle's wings, strengthening both the conviction that we are already saved, and our response to give as freely as we have freely received. Amen.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday: Matthew 5. 38-42

Tuesday: Matthew 5. 43 - end

Wednesday: Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Matthew 6. 7-15

Friday: Matthew 6. 19-23

Saturday: Matthew 6. 24 - end



Pray with Us:

Please pray for all those involved in Lay Development and Training in the Diocese, led by Elizabeth Jordan, Lay Development Adviser.

Please pray for the Diocesan Retreat House at Pleshey, City Prayer, Church @ Car Boot Sale, Boreham and RCCG Word Alive Chapel, Boreham

PRAY for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma), The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop

For those who are unwell: Pray for those who are unwell: Jim, Brenda and Chris Cole, Jean Cooper, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.



The Next Bishop of Chelmsford: please do play your part in the consultation. Simply go to the Diocesan website <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/> and click on the button on the home page marked “find out more”. This will take you to the consultation questionnaire.

Online giving on the website: you can now donate on-line to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. This is particularly important at the moment as the Cathedral works hard to continue ministering through these challenging times and begins to build for the future. If you want to donate now on-line, simply go to the home page of the website and click on the link, or click <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/0c7bf37c-62f7-4011-b9f0-854ead22f93a>

Being Resourced:

If you would like to receive the Dean's letter emailed to you once a week and you do not already receive it, please email clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Growing in Faith resources in a weekly email. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the ‘Church at Home’ page of the website or email imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Stations of the Resurrection: How do we encounter the Risen Lord in this time of darkness? Join with the Rev'd Canon Imogen and others as they lead us through personal encounters with the Risen Jesus, look at the website, or sign up to the Growing in Faith mailing, details above.

Social Time:

Book Group – This month we are reading Gulliver’s Travels (an interesting choice by the Church Times!) We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday June 29th at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk for more information

Quiz

It’s quiz time again! John and Yvonne Spence are holding another quiz evening on Saturday 13th June at 8pm via Zoom. "It’s a great opportunity SEE friends for the cathedral family". As before there is no charge, just email Yvonne to let you know you wish to take part. yvonnespence@hotmail.com.