

ALL SAINTS'



This week's Newsbulletin

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Sunday 28th (Second Sunday Of Lent)

10.00 Family Eucharist on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87271593002?pwd=Um5QT3Z2ZEZXS0VLa3pTaG13cUxTZz09>
Meeting ID: 872 7159 3002
Passcode: 967985

Tuesday 2nd March

11.00 Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88015708219>
Meeting ID: 880 1570 8219

19.30 Live Lent Session 2

Catching Up with God

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84970984521>
Meeting ID: 849 7098 4521

'Zoom'-ing by 'phone

Call 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131460 1196 and use meeting id followed by #

Communing

Dear Friends,

Communion is sharing. The very word implies it. Communing with God, and communing with others. The priest is not permitted to celebrate the sacrament alone, it is a shared experience.

How difficult our situation when we cannot assemble together in our church to gather at the altar. It is an important, vital part of our spiritual lives yet we are not able to meet safely at present. We hope and pray that the excellent progress being made with vaccinations will soon lead to opportunities to worship together in church again.

The Zoom services on Sundays have been a helpful way of maintaining our worship and our engagement with the celebration of communion. I imagine it feels strange, though, to come to the central part of the service and be unable to receive. I admit that despite the fact that as the priest I can receive, it really doesn't feel right when it cannot literally be shared with other faithful Christians.

There was a time in the Medieval era, before the Reformation, when the Mass was celebrated in church but often the priest only received the bread and wine, as the "ordinary people", being illiterate, were not thought to be intelligent enough to receive. So the sacrament was presented to the people simply as "the gaze that saves". They were very different times indeed, but we have been reduced to gazing rather than sharing together, which feels like a big loss.

Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion is receiving the tokens of bread and wine as conveying to us the mystery of Jesus' saving death on the cross. Not least during Lent, we focus on his willingness to accept that death for our salvation, and taking the sacrament is to receive the "certain and sure sign" of Christ's redemption. And yes, there is an intellectual aspect to understanding this wonderful feast, but the feeling of closeness to the Lord and to each other in a shared faith is surely what we seek above all.

We will be reviewing the situation in the coming days and when it is possible to meet with minimal risk, with appropriate precautions still being taken, we will let everyone know. Meanwhile, even sharing on the Internet is a blessing for us to at least be virtually present for the communion which is central to our faith in the God who loves and unites us all.

Love, Jo

It's not too late to join in with our Lent Course on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm. Full details at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/lentcourse.php>

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org    AllSaintsHerf

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