

The Path Ahead for the Parish of Thames Ditton and Esher Serving The Holy Name and Our Lady of Lourdes Churches

UPDATE ONE

We believe the linking of our two separate parishes with one priest is a wonderful opportunity to create one even stronger and more welcoming parish. We are looking forward to sharing our skills and talents so we can become ever more active in faith, and support and create a vibrant and joyful parish for all Catholics and their families and friends in the area.

We want everyone to feel part of this journey and a shared belonging of this new parish, and therefore will seek to involve and update you as much as possible during this transition period.

THREE PHASES OF TRANSITION

There are three phases to the transition from where we are today to where we shall be in September with a new priest. In essence they are:

- 1. Understand & Share:** (now to end of May)
We shall meet and work with each other as two parishes, to find out how we run our parish, our services and our events, and how we might work more closely together on shared activities in the future where it makes sense.
- 2. Simplify & Deepen:** (June to August)
From the beginning of June until the arrival of our new priest, we shall be led by Fr David, and we shall seek to find ways to simplify how we work as one parish by doing more things together that we do separately today, and sharing some activities between our two churches to cover the community in a more efficient way.
- 3. Thrive in the New:** (September onwards)
This era starts with the arrival of our new priest! We shall take all the input and feedback we receive from our combined parish, and, together with our new priest, our new community and leadership teams within this, create a forward-looking vision and plan for the coming years.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

Commencing on the weekend of 4/5th June, to allow for effective coverage of both churches in the parish with one priest, we will have a simplified mass schedule, which may be subject to change after the summer.

	HOLY NAME	OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Monday	9.30am	
Tuesday		9.30am
Wednesday	-	-
Thursday	9.30am	
Friday		9.30am
Saturday		6.00pm
Sunday	9.00am 6.00pm	11.00am

AREAS OF OUR CHURCHES WHICH WILL BE JOINING UP IN THE COMING WEEKS:

- **One Newsletter:** We shall gradually move to one newsletter for one parish across both churches.
- **Alpha:** the next Alpha course (which starts after Easter) will be held in the parish rooms at Holy Name
- **Baptism** classes: joint classes, venue tbc
- **Groups and activities.** In time, we shall create and publish one schedule of groups and activities for the whole parish. In the meantime members of the **Outreach and Social** teams at the two churches are already collaborating on possible future events and OLOL has included Holy Name's Year 10s in its **Confirmation** classes.
- **New Joint Vision Team:** Members of our Vision and Leadership team are displayed in the Narthex at OLOL and in the Parish Rooms at Holy Name parish. By the end of May we plan to have a single Vision Team serving the whole parish, while those who lead activities at the two churches will work together wherever this is appropriate.

Of course if you have any questions at all please contact Fr David or Fr. Rob, or a member of the appropriate team.

We'll aim to keep you updated regularly and look forward to the coming weeks, being part of a bigger parish of Thames Ditton and Esher, working together to welcome all into the joy of Jesus and to be a parish in joyful mission.