

*From Fr Richard Biggerstaff*

Dear Parishioners of Molesey, Hersham & Walton,

I am immensely privileged to serve as the parish priest of these three parishes and to enjoy the support and friendship of Fr Bill Muir and Deacon Joseph Cote.

As you know we are three parishes served by two priests and we need to adjust the Mass times accordingly. We have tried to provide a generous provision for Masses during the week and hope very much that people will travel between the churches of our parishes, just as the clergy do.

We would also hope that this might be the case for Sunday Masses. Busy lives often mean people attend different Masses at different times and in different places.

We would like to offer 6 Sunday Masses in our parishes.

A Saturday evening Vigil Mass, a Sunday evening Mass and four Masses on Sunday mornings.

-We propose that the Saturday evening Vigil Mass is celebrated at Hersham at 5.30pm and that there is a Hersham Sunday morning Mass at 9am.

-We propose a Molesey Sunday morning Mass at 11am and a Molesey Sunday evening Mass at 6pm.

-We propose that Walton keeps its two Sunday morning Masses at 9.15am & 11.15am.

-We propose that this takes effect as soon as is reasonably possible.

This Sunday morning arrangement would enable the priest who celebrates the 9am Mass at Hersham to have time to be in Molesey for 11am. Together with the two evening Masses, each priest would typically celebrate 3 Sunday Masses.

The finances of our parishes remain independent, although joint expenses will be shared. It will, of course be possible to donate to a parish of choice, even though we may well be at Mass elsewhere.

I am aware that the loss of two Masses in our parishes will be a disappointment to some, but we would hope that the variety and spread of times will make it reasonably easy for parishioners to be at Mass.

The collaboration of us all in the life and work of the Church, our care for each other and for the sick, the poor and the marginalised and above all our worship and prayer is at the heart of how we understand the mission of the Parish. There is much to do together to make sure we are faithful to this call and Our Lord will surely bless us in His work.

I have, of course discussed these arrangements with Bishop Richard, who has approved this proposal and recommended that these times be used for a period of three months. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to become accustomed to the new times and for any changes that may be necessary to take place. At that point, the Bishop will be asked to confirm the new times and they will then appear in the next edition of the Diocesan Directory.

*With all good wishes, and the assurance of my prayers Fr Richard*