

St John's Car Park – New Protocol starting September 2023

Dear Hall and Church Users of St Mary's, St John's have been extremely generous and hospitable allowing us to use their car park in so many different situations, and for so many years. They have now had to undertake a serious review due to the constant and seemingly intractable problems* with what you might call such an 'open gate' policy. So please join me in thanking St John's for all the help and hospitality they have afforded over the years to so many of us associated with St Mary's. And please join me in fully appreciating the need for this new protocol.

Sunday Mass

For those coming to celebrate mass at the Saturday 6pm and Sunday 5pm masses at St Mary's, St John's is pleased to be able to offer hospitality in their car park to parishioners of St Mary's at these two times. Only please be careful not to park in the numbered bays on the St Mary's side of the car park as these are allocated to permit holders. The lock on the gate had to be changed recently due to a broken key in the lock. St John's have allocated me a key to the new lock to facilitate access to the car park at these two times.

For those coming to celebrate mass at the Sunday 10am mass, St John's regrets they are unable to extend the same offer at this time as they have their own service at the same time, and they will need the car park for their own parishioners. They have however, despite the demand for space at this time, entrusted me with six (6) hospitality permits that I can allocate to any St Mary's parishioners who may have particular needs, and I make this allocation this in consultation with advisers, but please feel free to ask if you have a particular need.

Funerals and other special events

St John's have helped us with parking whenever they have been able to on the occasion of funerals and other special events at St Mary's. They would be pleased to continue offering us this hospitality and I will continue to consult with St John's over the availability of the car park on these occasions.

Hall Users

Hall Users (eg HK Toy Library, Brownies) are an important part of St Mary's, and St John's have been giving some careful thought as to how they can continue to support these groups while at the same time maintaining some regulation over the use of the car park for the sake of their own users. Toy Library were given their own key when they first started in order to help them as they were getting established. St John's are now asking that Toy Library staff and clients, Brownies, and all other Hall Users come down Vicarage Lane from the High Street if they need to use St John's car park, and then only to drop off and pick up. The old white barrier has now been removed. The gate will be kept locked for the reasons explained above. Please be careful not to use the numbered bays for dropping off and picking up, as these are allocated to paying permit holders.

For alternative parking possibilities, see the FIND US page on St Mary's parish website.

Yours sincerely 

* For many years the gate has frequently been left open. Casual parkers have helped themselves. Permit holders who pay a significant fee have been forced out of their allocated spaces. Their own parishioners have had to turn back from attending their own church services due to lack of parking spaces.