

24th June 2020

Guten Morgen,

It is a wonderfully warm and sunny summer's day here today.

And that goes well with the news we heard yesterday about the reopening of churches for worship from July 4.

How wonderful! Although social distancing, disinfecting, wearing masks and no singing all bring their own challenges for the preparation of meaningful worship, it will surely be a joy to come together again as a community and face to face.

Here in Geneva we have been privileged to be able to meet for the past 3 weeks, and we surely enjoy it. However, we have also decided to keep our Sunday morning service on zoom for several reasons: one is that we are currently in an interregnum and the locum, who is based in Australia, was not able to join us here because of travel restrictions. But he does celebrate Mass with Spiritual Communion for us on zoom. Another reason is that many of our congregation are still shielding and we felt it was important to keep a more inclusive service going, even if it doesn't reach all of the congregation because of technical difficulties for some. And finally, we are aware that other faith communities in and around Geneva were differently affected by the virus with some grieving for a large number of their members. We hope to set a sign of solidarity by keeping our services in church low key for now.

I guess, these are all considerations that will go through your heads as well.

One inspiration I took from an article in a German Christian magazine and which I hope our wardens will like, is this: when the Cathedral in Wetzlar opened again, they roped off pews with attractive red ropes (rather than put that fluorescent police tape around them - as we have done at Holy Trinity...), and then they marked the properly distanced seats with stickers saying "Welcome. It is good to see you again". Isn't that thoughtful? If I remember I will take some pictures of Holy Trinity which looks more like a crime scene at the moment than a place of worship :o)

Anyway, I am sure gathering in your lovely church again will be a joyous occasion - please send me pictures!

With warm regards and a smile,

Julia

P.S.: Still looking for a new Bishop?:



“Mr Bagley, I’m afraid there’s rather more to being a bishop than having your own hat.”