

Appendix 6 : Live Streaming (approved by PCC May 2024, review with update of Recommendation A PCC January 2025)

Live-Streaming at Holy Trinity, Horfield

Introduction and rationale

The PCC approved the implementation of live-streaming at Holy Trinity in 2023 following discussion and a subsequent rigorous selection process to appoint the most appropriate supplier. This itself followed protracted negotiations with a number of communication companies, and the Diocese, over the prerequisite installing of an internet connection in church. We persisted with this process, however, because we recognised live-streaming as being an important element of outreach and an inclusive welcome to those unable to worship with us in person, and mindful of the importance of offering a digital form of worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Live-Streaming was also recognised as being an important tool to offer people exploring their faith, and considering worshipping in a church of our tradition.

Implementation

The path to implementation of live-streaming has been far from easy. We originally went live in June 2023, and streamed Sunday masses until the end of September. There were problems with cameras and connection speed, and then there was an accident with the equipment, which resulted in an insurance claim to replace the hardware. With dedicated (and time *gratis*) from the installation technical team during Passiontide and Holy Week, we were able to stream successfully from Good Friday onwards, albeit with a few bumps along the way. We have also streamed a wedding, and a funeral, and a number of week-day services.

Feedback

A number of expressions of thanks and ‘likes’ regarding live-streaming from Holy Trinity have been posted on the church WhatsApp group, and have been received verbally. Some examples show the breadth of interactions:

“A wonderful online service. [...] and I felt very much part of it here in [...] watching it live. Our church looked beautiful!”

“Are you live streaming today?”... “Lovely I will tune in. Thank you x”.

“Holy Mass was live-streamed today, and was offered to the glory of God, and for the repose of the soul of Fr Royston Grosvenor, on the first anniversary of his death” was deeply appreciated by his son and widow, who were unable to be at the service in person.

“We have been asked to send the video of yesterday’s wedding service to members of the church who remember the little girl who started as boat girl and many other positions and then was in the choir. Enjoy.”

Staffing

We have been ably and generously supported in offering live-streaming by a small team of willing volunteers.

The mechanics

Recording occurs from a pan tilt zoom (ptz) camera at the west-end of church (by the icon of Our Lady of Kyiv), and from a fixed camera near the S. Edmund altar. In general, we see the back of people's heads in the congregation, apart from at the end of the Sunday Mass, when traditionally in Holy Trinity people turn around to face the priest at the west end for the dismissal. In addition, a number of camera positions have been pre-set so that, for instance, the reader or intercessor can be highlighted, or the priest is made more visible in the sanctuary. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the camera is focused on the stained glass window at the east end. You can see in more detail by going to our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyTrinityHorfield/streams>

Current position

We have recently had a concern expressed via communication to the leadership team, that we have not made it clear what services we are streaming in order for individuals to make informed decisions about being present at recorded services, and that some people may prefer not to be at a service where streaming takes place. As a result, the leadership team have discussed our options going forward.

Recommendations

- a. That we live-stream the Sunday Mass, the Tuesday and Thursday weekday services (available personnel permitting), together with any special services, and advertise this clearly (both on the website and with a printed notice in church). The Friday mass will not be live-streamed.
- b. Those services which are recorded, will be available publicly for a year, after which they will be 'unlisted' i.e. taken off public view, but left in the system for the two administrators (currently Hilary and Caroline) only to access.
- c. Baptisms, weddings and funerals will be recorded on request, for a fee, and will be 'private' recordings, whereby only the person organising the event with the leadership team will receive a link. This link cannot be shared onwards.
- d. Special events, e.g. concerts, will be considered on a case by case basis by the leadership team, and the decision clearly communicated.

Next steps

That the PCC adopt this recommendation as policy regarding live-streaming moving forward.

Caroline Plaice on behalf of the Rector and Wardens 15th May 2024