

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ (ਗੇਵਜ਼ੈਂਡ)

SIRI GURU NANAK DARBAR GURDWARA



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22nd March 2020

Sadh Sangat Ji

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

The whole world is going through a huge crisis to fight the Coronavirus, and Governments are taking actions never taken before to protect people's lives. As a Gurdwara, we also have a responsibility to protect the Sangat and Sewadars. The Gurdwara is normally a place of safety, comfort and solace for the Sangat. However, in the current circumstances, any place where people come together is a place where there is danger of being infected with this disease that has already killed thousands in many countries.

Taking account of the increasing risks of Coronavirus, it is with heavy hearts and deep regret that the Gurdwara Management Team has decided that we need to close the Gurdwara for immediately until further notice. We have already closed the Punjabi School, other educational and dharmic classes, advice surgeries and all sports activities. The Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan and Dharmic Mela have been postponed. Kent County Council has decided to close the Guru Nanak Day Centre and all other day centres in Kent until further notice.

From Monday 23rd March, the Gurdwara will function as follows:

1. All functions (Weddings, Akhand Paaths, Sukhmani Sahibs) booked up to end-April 2020 will be cancelled. By 15th April, we will decide on functions in May 2020.
2. Daily Nitnem and sewa in line with Rehat Maryada will be conducted by the Giani Jatha staying at the Gurdwara. The Jatha will have clear guidance on how to keep themselves safe.
3. We are making arrangements to broadcast the daily Nitnem through social media and will announce details as soon as ready.
4. There will be no daily Diwan for the Sangat.
5. We will make special arrangements for any funerals that arise during the closure.
6. Langar will not be prepared for eating on the Gurdwara premises.
7. We are starting a Langar delivery service for those who are vulnerable and isolating at home, and unable to get supplies or prepare food themselves. Further information on this is being published separately.

This action is being taken reluctantly after giving full consideration to the advice being given by the Government, public health experts and several Sikh organisations which have issued guidance. It is widely agreed that taking this action now will mean that fewer people suffer overall, and we will return to normal faster than if we don't take this action.

We appreciate that the closure of the Gurdwara leaves a huge gap in the lives of those who attend regularly for Sangat and Pangat, Darshan and Sewa. We ask for your full cooperation during this difficult time. Please do your Nitnem at home and pray to Waheguru for Sarbat da Bhalla.

Please note and act on all the advice being given by the NHS to keep yourself, your family and neighbours safe.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Your Mukh Sewadar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manpreet Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Manpreet Singh Dhaliwal

On behalf of Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Management Team