

Supplement to the Sunday Bulletin
Concerning the opening of the Churches for the celebration of Mass.

Supplement 1

Dear Parishioner

You will no doubt have heard the news that Nicola Sturgeon has given the go ahead for the Churches to be available for communal worship from 15th July. It has been a long time coming but the time is now very close for us to come together again for Mass.

That being said it is not something that can be rushed. There is still a lot of reflection and work to be done prior to us going ahead. Having discussed it with two of the smaller groups within the Parish Pastoral Councils I have decided that we will move forward in a staged approach. I can appreciate that the further short delay in celebrating Mass will disappoint some of you but I have to be sure in my own mind that the Church will be a safe place for you to come back to.

The week commencing Monday 13th July i.e. this coming week, will be as it is at the moment with the Churches open for private and personal prayer as follows: It would be confusing to change things in the middle of a week.

St. Cuthbert's

Monday 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Friday 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Our Lady's

Tuesday 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Thursday 6.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Once the Church is closed after the final personal prayer time there will be a deep clean on Thursday 16th July after the private prayer session i.e. 7.00 p.m. and Friday 24th July after 9.15 a.m. Mass i.e. about 10.00 a.m. in Our Lady's and on Friday 17th July and Saturday 25th July in St. Cuthbert's. Due to this enhanced cleaning of the Church if you would like to volunteer on a temporary basis please contact Sandra Brannigan on sbran2656@gmail.com. (This does not mean an ongoing commitment to the cleaning of the Church unless you wish to volunteer for that also.

More volunteers are also needed to deal with the welcoming and movement of people who do come to Mass. If you wish to help, please contact Ben Malone or Tony Allen. This does not imply an ongoing commitment (which would be welcome) but will help in the temporary situations in which we find ourselves.

Week Beginning Monday 20th July

The normal schedule for weekday Mass will resume i.e. 9.00 a.m. Monday – Friday and 10.00 a.m. on Saturday in St. Cuthbert's and 9.15 a.m. in Our Lady's from Monday – Friday. After the final weekday Mass the Churches will again have a deep clean between then and the next event.

From 25th July:

Due to the restricted numbers being allowed to attend Mass, there will be two additional Masses over the weekend and the Mass times will be slightly changed on a temporary basis. The temporary times will be in next week's newsletter once they have been worked out. This is to provide the opportunity for as many as possible to come to Mass should they so wish. **The Sunday Obligation will still be suspended.** The Bishops have asked that those who wish to return do so in accordance with the infection control measures in each parish, mindful of the need to protect themselves and others.

The Bishops have decreed that a maximum of 50 people can be present at any one Mass. This obviously means a reduction in places at each Mass. How this is going to be done in a fair and just way is still being worked out and fuller details will be available from next weekend. Social distancing will be required, at the moment 2 metres. It may also involve some form of an advanced booking system.

Please note: If you decide to come to Mass there will be differences and I would ask you to be patient and respectful to those who will be trying to help you.

This may mean you cannot sit in your 'usual' seat and you may be directed to a different part of the Church (even the front row)

You may have to indicate which Mass you intend coming to remembering that any health issues should be taken on board before you decide in line with Government instructions.

You will be asked to give contact details of names and contact information in case trace and contact is required by the government.

You will be asked to wear a face covering from the time you enter the Church until the time you leave unless you have a health reason for not doing so or are under five.

A lot more information will be given next weekend e.g. how communion will be distributed, moving around the Church on arrival and departure. This is being worked on by the Parish Pastoral Councils in the course of the coming week.

I am also conscious that a number of parishioners do not have internet access and so will not see this information direct. If there is someone you know who falls into this category please pass on any information by word of mouth so they are aware of what is happening.

I hope you understand why I am not prepared to start Mass straight away but time is needed to prepare the Church, the stewards/Passkeepers and anyone involved so that you are safe and they are safe.

This interim system will last as long as Phase three lasts but may also be subject to change at short notice depending on information and instructions received from The Government and the Bishops.

Please be patient and as much information as possible will be passed on as soon as possible. I am grateful to the two Councils who are giving an incredible amount of time to do their best for you.

More information will be available next week but in the meantime God Bless you all.

Monsignor Tony