

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

Supplement 3

Dear Parishioner

Last weekend, I gave an initial introduction with regard to the opening of both Churches for Mass. Today I am very happy to give more details as we are about to begin celebration of the Mass.

I appreciate that some of you may be nervous/apprehensive about the resumption of Masses and whether you should come.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains dispensed until further notice. The Bishops have made it clear that at this point in time the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass is still suspended. The key thing to reflect on is whether you feel comfortable and safe and are not in one of the government risk categories which means you should not attend so you are asked to consider carefully whether or not you should return in the early phases.

Mass times in the coming week are as follows:

St. Cuthbert's

Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m.

Saturday 10.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Next Sunday 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Our Lady's

Monday – Friday 9.15 a.m.

Next Sunday 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

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.

From 25th July:

Due to the restricted numbers being allowed to attend Mass, there will be two additional Masses over the weekend and on a temporary basis. 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 complied with Government restrictions and decreed that a maximum of 50 people can be present at any one Mass. This obviously means a reduction in places at each Mass. It is one of the reasons why you will see that there is an extra Mass in both Parishes on Sunday.

It also means that you will need to reserve a place. To do so, please follow this link.

St Cuthbert's:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-cuthberts-church-slateford-30735114248>

Our Lady's:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/our-lady-mother-of-the-church-currie-30735291480>

(just click on the appropriate link) and then follow the directions there.

If you cannot access the internet then please contact Henry Joseph (0740 518 8919) or the house number between 11.00 a.m. and 12 noon or between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. for St. Cuthbert's or Andy Cooper (449.2459) or Bernadette Barry (441.1939) for Our Lady's

Social distancing will be required, at the moment 2 metres

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. Please follow the directions of the Passkeepers to ensure your safety and each others.

Please do not leave it until the last minute to arrive for Mass. This is due to the time it will take to complete the check in procedure and also the sanitisation process.

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

You will 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 should only book for one Mass on any given Sunday

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

You do not need to book for weekday Masses but you will still have to give the relevant information indicating that you have been Mass.

You will be asked to sanitise your hands on entering the Church and on leaving.

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.

In terms of the Liturgy there will be differences.

A one-way system is in operation.

On arrival, your name will be checked off the list for those attending Mass. If you are not on the list, we may have to turn you away. You will be reminded of the correct procedure to be followed in booking a place for future Masses.

Mass will be shorter than usual

There will be no altar servers or sacristans

Only priests will be allowed in the sacristy and on the sanctuary

Mass will be celebrated without singing

without the Gloria

with only one reading before the Gospel

without the Creed

without the Bidding Prayers

without the Offertory Collection

without the collection (please note that a collecting basket for offerings and envelopes will be available in the porch before you exit the church)

without exchanging the sign of peace

After the Priest has said “Behold the Lamb of God... Lord I am not worthy”, he will hold up the Host to the Congregation and say audibly “The Body of Christ” to which the people should respond together “Amen”. In the same way, he will elevate the chalice and say “The Blood of Christ” and again the people should respond “Amen”.

Holy Communion (in the form of bread only) will be distributed into the hands of the recipient in silence after the final blessing

When you have received the Host in your hand, you should step away from the priest, remove or lower your mask to consume the Host then replace your mask before leaving using the one-way system to exit the church

In the porch you will again use the hand sanitizer.

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.

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.

Monsignor Tony