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Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

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15th Sunday of the Year.

Sunday: No Mass or service in Our Lady's or St. Cuthbert's

Weekday: No Mass or service in Our Lady's or St. Cuthbert's

Please remember the following parishioners, relatives and friends in your prayers:

Sick: Anne Bardsley, Dominic McQue, Ara Grigor and all those who are suffering as a result of the virus whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

The Churches will continue to be open next week for limited times on specific days. The supplement explains why this is happening and our route forward to be open for Mass.

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.

On coming to pray in the Church even for private prayer please note the following:

1. Facemasks: Everyone over the age of 5 must wear a face covering while in the Church. However if you have a health condition which prevents you wearing one there is no problem. Please bring your own if possible.

2. Hand Sanitising Stations: We ask everyone to please sanitize their hands upon entering and before leaving the Church.

3. One-Way-System: There will be a one-way-system in place in both Churches. Please enter St. Cuthbert's by the side door and leave by the main central door following the arrows. In Our Lady's please enter and leave by the main door taking care to retain the social distance.

4. Physical Distancing: You will note that some pews have been corded off. This is to help everyone to ensure 2m physical distancing at all times. We will have volunteers in the Church during the opening hours to help ensure that the social distance is kept.

5. No toilets: Since it is impossible for us to disinfect the toilets between each visit, please note that there will be no toilet facilities available.

Some may feel that the cautious approach to reopening is too much but our top priority must be is to keep everyone safe in both churches, It will mean that the churches will look a little different for a while, but we have to comply with both government and Church directions. Hopefully it will not be too long.

There is a special supplement below following on Nicola Sturgeon's announcement of the churches opening as part of phase 3. It also gives the Bishops' instructions going forward. Please read it carefully.

This week we continue what hopefully will be a steady if necessarily slow journey back to normality. Being able to go into the church for a visit may not seem much but it is a start and it is valuable in itself and also an opportunity for us to think out how we need to prepare for Sunday Masses and weekday Masses as we reach phase 3. Please contact sbran2656@gmail.com or myself. It is great for us to be able to pray in the church. We are coming through a difficult and at times depressing time. We have also had a chance to live at a different pace without feeling guilty about it. How do we put these two different experiences together, so that as we begin the long journey back we can feel we have grown in faith and a spirit of service.

The number of committed volunteers we have will not be able to cope and as things become clearer requests will be made for more and more people to be involved. New areas of volunteering will emerge.

We are trying our best but we may not get things right straight away so please be patient with us. It is a steep learning curve for everyone involved.

I encourage everyone to take some time during the day to pray. There are an increasing number of valuable resources online that are very useful to Catholics during the lockdown. One which you may find worthwhile is on a website called Thy Kingdom Come, which has issued a range of neatly formatted resources, including Morning, Evening and Night prayer. This week there is also a virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage to compensate in a small way for the cancellation of the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. The various Masses, liturgies and celebrations will be available and you will be welcome to join the various Masses and celebrations. Access is via the Archdiocesan website or www.edinburgh-lourdes.com.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you and for you sooner rather than later.

***May God bless you all and bring you his peace.
Monsignor Tony & Father Martins.***

