

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year. (a)**

**Times of Mass and Confession:**

- Sundays:** 6.00 p.m. Vigil Mass. (Saturday night)  
10.00 a.m. & 5.00 p.m. (Sunday)
- Weekdays:** 9.00 a.m. (Monday – Friday) and  
10.00 a.m. Saturday in St. Cuthbert's  
9.15 a.m. (Monday – Friday) in Our Lady's.

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

**Sick:** Caroline McNeish, Nora Wood, Brendan Ward, Phil Cox, Eamonn Forker, Mary Rowlinson, Tony Sullivan and all those affected by the Corona virus whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

**Died:** Mike Knox, Dom Donald McGlynn, retired Abbot at Nunraw, John Keegan.

**First Holy Communions Update – Current P5 Pupils Only**

Letters were sent out last week to families, of pupils currently registered for the celebration of First Holy Communion. Please note that at this point, this refers only to those pupils who should have made their first communions in June but were prevented from doing so by lockdown. These will be celebrated at the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November. This means that on those Saturdays only those children and their family group can come to the 10.00 a.m. Mass due to the restrictions. We will communicate with you regarding current P4 communions after Christmas.

Please note that all candidates for First Holy Communion must be baptised Catholics and should have made their First Reconciliation (Confession). If your child has not and wishes to make their First Holy Communion with us, please contact me on 0131 443 1317 or [staned@stcuthbertchurch.com](mailto:staned@stcuthbertchurch.com) to arrange a time for this sacrament to be celebrated. The children should come with their parents only and not in a group with their friends.

Please also contact me, if you expect your child to make their first communion this year but have had not had a letter confirming a date from us this week. We will discuss registration with you. We have now given out registration forms to all those who have previously expressed an interest in their child receiving this sacrament previously.

**First Reconciliations – Current P4 Pupils Only Update**

Parents/Carers of pupils who were in P3 last year and should have celebrated their First Reconciliation in March 2020, will have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament in December: between the dates of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Parents/carers can select either a Saturday morning or weeknight slot by contacting Fr Duffy on 0131 443 1317 or [staned@stcuthbertchurch.com](mailto:staned@stcuthbertchurch.com) to arrange a time for this sacrament to be celebrated. Please be advised that any pupil wishing to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2021 must have also made their First Reconciliation.

**Confirmation** of the current P7 children who are eligible will be celebrated by Archbishop Cushley in June 2021. A more specific date will be given in due course.

There are no changes in the way we celebrate Mass this weekend. It is important however we maintain the rules and restrictions laid down by both the Government and the Church authorities and not ease off our efforts. Some are definitely beginning to lower their guard. Please remember that due to the additional 'check in' time needed please do not leave it until the last minute before you arrive. Arriving those few minutes early also provides an opportunity for private personal prayer while waiting for Mass to begin. As we still live with the effects of Covid, there is a risk of physical and spiritual fatigue. Perhaps we have become weary of all sorts of guidelines and simply want to push them to the back of our mind or worse still and potentially more dangerous ignore them completely so suit ourselves. We may be struggling with how we pray and how we can live our Christian lives. Please comply with the restrictions as outlined.

**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. The face covering should cover the nose as well as the mouth.

**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. You will be led to your seats. Please do not bring food or toys to Mass with you. I would also ask parents to stop their children from moving around during Mass.

**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. The point of having designated places in the church is to help limit the risk of infection. It would be good for everyone to remain in their seat when they are shown to it. It is a temptation to go and talk to someone we haven't seen for a while, but that defeats the safety aim of set seating.

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.

**6. For your own safety and wellbeing** please follow the directions of the Passkeepers especially when coming forward especially for Holy Communion. Please do not leave your seat until you are asked to do since this can compromise the 2 metre social distancing. You should also leave the Church immediately after receiving Communion following the one-way system. If you wish a blessing instead of Communion follow the same route as those receiving communion. Thank you very much to those who have been involved so far in cleaning the Church and also escorting parishioners to the allocated seats.

**7. Remaining after Mass:** As noted above, the seats are sanitised after each Mass and so that means that we need to ask everyone to leave the church straight away after receiving Holy Communion and not return to their seats. This applies to weekday and weekend Masses

Many thanks to all of you for your patience as you try to book a place for the Mass of your choice. I know it is not easy and is frustrating but I assure you I feel the same and as soon as permission is given allowable changes will be made. Unfortunately this is not always possible at the moment due to the restrictions imposed by the Government and the Church. Thank you to those who have managed to come to Mass after booking on the system. There are a few hiccups but hopefully these have been ironed out. As has been stated previously if, after reflection you decide you wish to come to Mass, then you should click on the link in the supplement or click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-cuthberts-church-slateford-30735114248>. If there is a problem please contact Henry Joseph on 07405188919 or the house number between 11.00 a.m. and 12 noon or send an email. For Our Lady's please contact Andy Cooper (449.2459) or Bernadette Barry (441.1939) between 11.00 a.m. - 12 noon or 5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Please remember you must book each week if you intend coming and at the moment to allow a fair distribution for Mass, booking is restricted to one booking per Mass per household with a maximum of four people and you cannot sit where you wish.

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. Please contact [sbran2656@gmail.com](mailto:sbran2656@gmail.com) if there is any way in which you think you may be able to help.

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 so please be patient as we work through the requirements laid down by the Government and the Church authorities. We cannot get all that we would like or want.

*With every best wish and an assurance of our prayers*

*Father Martins and Monsignor Tony*

