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Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

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29th Sunday of the Year (a).

Our Lady's

Sunday: Mass at 9.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m.
Weekday: Monday – Friday 9.15 a.m.

St. Cuthbert's.

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)
10.00 a.m. (Saturday)

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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.

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Heating Replacement and Upgrade: The work has started on installing the new heating system. It follows one of the boilers being condemned in the course of its annual check. New boilers, radiators, piping both internal and external will be installed so please be careful when you are at Mass. We have been advised that Mass will be able to continue as at the moment. Hopefully it will mean that people will no longer claim Our Lady's to be the coldest Church in the Diocese. The work is expected to take 4/5 weeks.

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Still no changes in restrictions for celebrating Mass. That does not mean we can afford to drop our guard and it is even more 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 to 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. I have noticed that the standards are slipping a bit as time goes on especially in terms of

Physical Distancing: This is an area where people are beginning to sit closer than they should. There must be a 2 meter distance minimum between parishioners to enable the maximum people to come and be safe. The 2 meter distancing is not an option. It is a legal requirement. The point of having designated places in the church is to help limit the risk of infection. Everyone should 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. There must be a 2 metre minimum distance unless you are there as a family group.

Observing the One-Way-System: 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.

For your own safety and well being please follow the directions of the Passkeepers especially when coming forward 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.

You should not return to your seat again to maintain social distancing and make it possible for the area to be wiped down after each Mass. 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.

Remaining after Mass: As noted above, the seats are sanitised after each Mass 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

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 is dropping off a bit and it may be that we will not have will not be able to cope with the cleaning required. The same few dedicated volunteers are always there so some extra help would be good so that there could be a rota. This could mean that Masses will have to be cancelled. Please contact sbran2656@gmail.com if there is any way in which you think you may be able to help.

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There are a lot of events going on just now within the Archdiocese and nationally unfortunately most of them requiring internet access for Zoom meeting.

19th October: Getting to Know St Mark: St. Mark's Gospel will provide the Gospel passages for the new liturgical year which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, a date fast approaching. A Zoom event on the gospel of St Mark for Year B will take place at 7.00 p.m. 'Getting to Know St Mark' will be presented by Fr Andrew Garden. Details on registration for this free event are on the Archdiocese's Facebook page and website: archedinburgh.org/new-events.

21st October: As previously mentioned, Sister Immaculata the Sister of Mercy - who dedicated her entire adult life to serving the Lord in our Archdiocese - died on 12 September at St Michael's Care Home in Clacton-on-Sea, aged 93. The private burial of Sr Immaculata Murray RSM will take place at Mount Vernon Cemetery at 2pm on Wednesday 21 October. Sr Aelred Timmins RSM has asked that people across the Archdiocese remember Sr Immaculata in prayer at 2pm on the day of her burial, particularly members of the Legion of Mary, who she worked with closely.

31st October –You are invited you to join Archbishop Cushley and the Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM) who will lead us in the Joyful Mysteries from St Margaret's Chapel, at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh, at 1.00pm. Watch on YouTube, Facebook or the News & Events section of this website.

Archbishop Cushley said: "I'm calling on Catholics across our Archdiocese to be united in prayer for the National Rosary Rally on Saturday 31 October. The Rosary is the spiritual weapon of our

times and we place our prayers in the loving hands of Mary as we call on our Lord Jesus Christ for faith, life and peace.”

National organiser Antonia Moffat said: "More than ever we need to intercede for our Isles and for the conversion to Christ of our peoples and that they be protected from all danger, from all sickness and from all evil. Imagine the joy of the Blessed Mother when she sees the entire British Isles full of people imploring her powerful intercession!"

Further details at: www.rosarvonthecoast.co.uk

“I want you to know that in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Rosary.” St Dominic

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In God’s Image: In God’s Image' - the Instruction on Safeguarding from the Bishops of Scotland to all Catholic jurisdictions in the country - was published in March 2018 initially for a three year period. The Bishops are now preparing for the publication of version two of this document to reflect any significant developments that have occurred since first publication. The intended publication date is June 2021. Until then, 'In God's Image' version one will remain valid. The Bishops in Scotland want to hear from you if you wish to propose any changes to ‘In God’s Image’, the safeguarding policy manual for the Catholic Church in Scotland. They say: “We want to hear from lay people, as well as from clergy and religious. Above all, we are keen to hear from survivors or victims of abuse so that the church can plan to ensure sensitive responses to all allegations and concerns.” Go to bcos.org.uk/InGodsImageV2.

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With every best wish and an assurance of our prayers

Father Martins and Monsignor Tony

