

*Concerning the opening of the Churches for the celebration of Mass.*

Dear Parishioner

We are very happy to give more details as we are about to begin celebration of the Mass.

**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 between Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April.2021 are as follows:

**St. Cuthbert's**

- 27.March, Saturday Vigil Mass at 6 p.m.
- 28.March, Palm Sunday Mass at **9.30 a.m.**
- 2.April, Good Friday Service at 3 p.m.
- 3.April, Easter Vigil Mass at 8.30 p.m.
- 4.April, Easter Mass at **9.30 a.m.**

**Our Lady's**

- 28.March, Palm Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m.
- 1.April, Holy Thursday Mass at 7 p.m.
- 2.April, Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.
- 4.April, Easter Mass at 11:30 a.m

*Details of Masses after Easter Sunday will be published later on the Church website*

**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. Social distancing will be required, at the moment 2 metres**

**From 27<sup>th</sup> March:**

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 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.

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. Booking is not required for children less than one year old.

If you cannot access the internet then please contact Henry Joseph (0740 518 8919) for St. Cuthbert's and Andy Cooper (449.2459) for Our Lady's.

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.

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.

**Please note: If you decide to come to Mass there will be differences and we 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.**

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). A one-way system is in operation.

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 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.

Please do not bring food or toys to Mass with you. We would also request 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.

**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.

**In terms of the Liturgy there will be differences.**

**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.

We are 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 is subject to change at short notice depending on information and instructions received from the Government and the Bishops.

Please continue to visit the Church website (<https://www.stcuthbertschurch.com/>) for more updates. Please be patient and as much information as possible will be passed on as soon as possible.

Parish Council