

## RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR MASS

Our church will reopen for Mass on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm. Please keep the following in mind:

1. **The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.** If you choose to come to Mass, please consider attending Mass during the week, to take pressure off the Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. If you feel anxious about taking part in Mass with others or feel that you are vulnerable in any way, please do not hesitate to stay at home nor feel guilty about it. Mass will continue to be live streamed.
2. The capacity of the church will be reduced due to social distancing.
  - **This means you will need to book your place for the Mass you choose to attend. If you do not have a seat booked, you will not be allowed into the church.** This is to ensure that each person who comes to Mass already has a seat allocated.
  - Couples will be able to sit together, as will families from the same household.
  - To book:  
please contact Fr Magill preferably by email [thomas2magill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thomas2magill@yahoo.co.uk). If this is not possible, telephone/text on 07789708192. Please indicate your name and the names of those from your household who will be attending.
  - If you are booking for people outwith your household, please indicate this and also their names, addresses and phone numbers. This ensures not only that they are guaranteed a seat but also that we have a record of everyone present.
  - Please make your booking as early as possible. Also remember to cancel if for whatever reason you cannot take up your booking.
3. Apart from children under 5 and people with a diagnosed health issue, everyone must wear a face-covering before entering the church and during the celebration of Mass.
4. Each parishioner will be greeted at the door by ushers. You will be asked to stand in front of the camera for your temperature to be taken. If a high temperature is recorded, you will be tested once again by a hand-held thermometer. If your temperature is still too high, you will be asked to return home. Both tests are anonymous. Sanitising liquid will be available as you enter and leave and must be used. The toilet will not be available for use.
5. You will be accompanied by an usher to your designated seat. You are requested to take the seat indicated by the usher.

6. Everyone will remain seated throughout Mass which will last 30-35 minutes.
7. Holy Communion will be distributed at the very end of Mass, after the final blessing and dismissal. For the reception of Holy Communion, please follow the directions of the usher who will indicate when to leave your seat. The congregation will present themselves according to where they are seated: first, those seated around the organ, then those seated on Our Lady's side, then those on the Sacred Heart's side, finally those seated in the Oratory. Once you have received Holy Communion, please sanitise your hands once more, then leave the church immediately by the side door. Make your way to the front of the church where you can wait for your family and friends.
8. Baskets will be available at each door for your weekly contribution. Please consider donating through a Standing Order.
9. The Church will be sanitised after every Mass.

**10. VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO HELP IN USHERING AND SANITISING.** You can volunteer if you are over 16. The over 70s can also volunteer as long as they have no underlying health issue. This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to contribute not only to our parish life but also to be involved in the nation's struggle against the virus. Please be generous with your time—we will need at least 6 people to act as ushers and sanitisers for each Mass. Please contact Fr Magill as soon as possible, preferably this week, by phone, text or email if you are willing to help. You can also get in touch by using the Contact Page on the Home Page of the parish website.

I know you will appreciate this code of practice has been drawn up to protect your health and the health of others. Your co-operation will be deeply appreciated

The first few weeks after reopening will be challenging. Please be patient and supportive. The more parishioners there are who volunteer to help, the easier things will be. So please get in touch soon to offer your services. The reopening of the church will also be a time of many graces and blessings and a God-given opportunity for us to grow as a community of faith.

