

Re-opening our church for Mass – July 2020

Following the recent Government announcement that we can now hold acts of public worship, we are looking forward to being able to celebrate Mass with you again soon.

Firstly, and most importantly, the **obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended** – if you do not feel safe coming to Mass please stay at home and don't worry – there is absolutely no requirement for you to attend Mass at all.

Also, we cannot stress enough that this is not a return to normal, and there are several **changes** you need to be aware of. Please take the time to read the below carefully so that you are prepared for your visit to church.

The number of Masses we can offer each week is entirely subject to enough **volunteer stewards and cleaners** to make it happen. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Naomi on naomi.hogg@prcdtr.org.uk (NB - We must ask you please not to volunteer if you are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable)

If we get enough volunteers, we aim to celebrate Mass at the following times:

Tuesday 6pm
Wednesday 10am
Thursday 10am
Friday 10am
Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 10:30am

The church will also remain open for private prayer for half an hour after the end of each Mass.

In order to maintain social distancing at 2m, the church has a **limited capacity** of 20 households at any one time. Once this limit has been reached, the stewards are unable to admit any more people. We are grateful in advance for your understanding on this – it is entirely necessary in order to keep everybody safe.

Obviously, with a capacity of only 15 households, there is no way we can accommodate everyone at every Mass. We would therefore encourage you, as an act of generosity, to please **come to Mass on one of the weekdays** if you are able, rather than on the weekend. This will help ensure that there is space for those who cannot attend Mass during the week to attend at the weekend. Remember, the continued suspension of the Sunday obligation means that at the moment 'all Masses are equal', so please think of others when choosing which Mass you attend each week.

When you enter the church for Mass, you will notice that the **layout** has been changed in order to create a one-way system – please follow the printed notices, arrows and directions of the stewards at all times.

The **church toilet is closed** and cannot be used.

You will be asked to give your contact details to a steward when you enter, for **track and trace** purposes.

During Mass, there is to be no singing, no Children's Liturgy, no Prayers of the Faithful, no sign of peace and no offertory procession. There will be baskets available on your way into and out of church for you to make your offering if you wish, but please make your donations online or by standing order if possible.

When it comes to **communion**, we will all acclaim the presence of the Lord at the priest's communion by responding 'Amen' when Fr Paul elevates the host and chalice. The people's communion is then distributed in silence, with no dialogue between minister and communicant; communion will be given silently, in the hand only, and with the communicant standing. You will be directed to process by the stewards one household at a time whilst maintaining social distance. When you approach Fr Paul, there will be a small table in front of him to aid social distancing: please present your hands palm upwards, one on top of the other, as flat as possible, and with arms extended at full stretch, in order to maximise the distance between you and Fr Paul.

For those who cannot attend Mass in person, we hope to **livestream one Mass a week** via a secure Zoom meeting. More details will follow next week, once we've got to grips with the technology!

Thank you for reading this carefully. We appreciate there's a lot to get through and a lot to take in, but hopefully the information will help you to make informed decisions about if and when you attend Mass, and help you feel more prepared for when you do.

Finally, please note that all of the above is **subject to change** at any time as new guidelines are published and further measures are imposed or relaxed. We'll always do our best to update you in a timely fashion: keep an eye on the newsletter, facebook, and emails for more information.

Thank you all once again for your patience and co-operation as we continue our journey through this strange time together.