

Dear Parishioner,

**Good News** - We are going to reopen our Holy Cross Church to the public for the celebration of Holy Mass.

**When will this be?:** From Sunday 04<sup>th</sup> July 2020. It is only possible when we have at least four welcome Ministers for each Mass. Please contact us if you are able to help.

**Times of Masses:**

**Sundays:** 7pm [Sat – Vigil Mass], 9am, 11.30am and 7pm

**Weekdays:** 7pm

Please note:

- **At present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.**
- **Given that there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday.** This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.
- Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. So, we shall continue **the live-streaming of Sunday Mass and weekday Mass**, both for those who shall still be shielding, and for those who are housebound.
- When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration will take place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.
- We are required to follow a **1m plus social distancing seating plan**. This means that there must be at least 1m in all directions between each person/household, plus everyone must wear a mask or suitable face covering whilst in the church.
- All hymnbooks and missals and other published material will be removed from the church. The Holy Water stoups will be dry.

- **Readers** will be supplied with single-use gloves and will avoid touching the microphones or the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word, apart from page turning. The homily will be brief, to minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building. **The Prayer of the Faithful** will be omitted.
- There will be **no offertory procession** and no sharing of the collection plate or bag. People will be encouraged to make their donation to the church online or via standing order. Plates or other collecting boxes for cash offerings will be placed at the entrances and exits of the church. The collection will be consolidated into plastic bags, sealed, placed in a secure location and left for 72 hours before counting. Counters will wear gloves when undertaking this task and the area in which they work will be well ventilated and cleaned both before and afterwards.
- Members of the congregation will not exchange **the sign of peace**.
- After the prayer and its response "Behold the Lamb of God...Lord I am not worthy," the priest will hold up the Host to the Congregation and say audibly "The Body of Christ" to which the people will respond "Amen." In the same way, he elevates the chalice and says, "The Blood of Christ" and again the people respond "Amen." The priest will receive Holy Communion under both kinds using his own Host and Chalice. The priest will need to explain this to the congregation at this point.
- Once the priest has received Holy Communion, he will cleanse his hands with alcohol sanitiser before opening the pre-prepared ciborium for the Communion of the people. If there is any other Minister of Holy Communion, they will similarly cleanse their hands and then receive communion from the priest from the people's ciborium, and under **one kind only**. They will then cleanse their hands again before receiving their ciborium from which they remove the covering or pall if it is still in place.
- At the place where communion is to be distributed, **a physical barrier** will be placed to socially distance the priest
- After the Celebration of Mass, **people will be encouraged to return home and not remain**.

- The church will be closed after the Mass has finished in order for cleaning to be undertaken.

- The celebrant will place the used altar linens into a receptacle for laundry.

All sacred vessels will be washed in hot water with a little neutral soap and dried completely before storing. Any discarded printed materials will be removed and bagged for disposal.

- The steps outlined above are very important, as we cannot simply resume as we had left off prior to lockdown.

Looking forward to seeing you all celebrating the Holy Mass in Holy Cross.