

THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul Sunday 28th June 2020

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On the back page of this newsletter, you will find a letter addressed to you from the Archbishops of England. It concerns the opening of our churches for public worship – and above all the celebration of Holy Mass. It tells us that Mass will be publicly celebrated from next Saturday. **It also tells us of the changes we will have to take on board for the celebration of Mass to happen.**

- 1) Social distancing: we are now well used to this in our everyday lives. It is important in church too so that people feel safe. Usually it is 2 meters – but for the purposes of Mass we are permitted 1 meter +.** This means social distancing can be 1 meter - as long as there is an extra precaution taken. **This extra precaution is a face covering.**
- 2) Face Coverings.** Many of you use them already around the shops and on buses and trains. Some use medical type masks, and others use homemade ones out of handkerchiefs etc. **I'm afraid that to attend Mass means face coverings are obligatory for the time being, which you will have to bring with you – although there is an exception for under 5's and those with serious respiratory diseases or breathing difficulties - In the latter case please keep 2 meter distance from others.**

I am incredibly grateful to all those who volunteered to be stewards when we first opened St Dunstan's for private prayer. For the Mass to be celebrated according to the guidelines we will need to adjust the way we do things (already!)

We will have another stewards meeting at 7pm this Thursday when can go through the guidance we have received. Sorry about the late notice – but it would be great if you can attend. If you cannot come but would like to steward, please let Fr Philip or Fr Simon know. ***This means the church will not be open for private prayer on Thursday evening.***

Also, we will be working out a Mass schedule, so this will change the pattern of opening and closing in the coming weeks.

We hope to run a similar pattern of Masses as before – although spaces will be more limited, and I'm afraid it will be on a first come first served basis until we can measure the need. Please be patient. We will try our best! **So next Saturday Mass will be at 11am and 5.30pm, and Sunday at 10am, Noon and 6.30pm.** As the letter makes clear – Mass will be said, and fairly short – music to the ears of many a teenager! ***Whether our previous schedule of Masses will continue will depend on numbers attending and wider deanery duties of the priests.***

We are also conscious that some of you will be uncertain about attending Mass due to health concerns. Please remember that the Obligation to hear Mass on Sundays is still lifted for the time being – alternatively you might prefer to attend Mass during the week, and leave the Sunday Masses for those who work during the week.

Initially we will reopen St Dunstan's for Mass and see how it goes before opening St Jude's for public Mass.

The Sacrament of Confession will be available on Saturday morning (27th) at St Dunstan's 11am-12noon. For confessions please go to the Adoration Chapel, using the 'one way' system and use the entrance by the Sacred Heart statue.

Please also note that the toilets will be closed due to COVID regulations and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be out of bounds.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saturday: 11am – 1pm

with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday: 10am – 1pm

with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday – Friday

10am – 12 noon and 6pm – 8pm
(excluding Thursday 6pm - 8pm)

Streamed Sunday Mass will be available today at 9.00am for the last time, as the commencement of public Masses and church opening makes these difficult. The priests and friars based at the shrine at Walsingham do live stream Mass and devotions each day. If you google 'Walsingham National Shrine' you should find a link.

During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for: Vic Pye (RIP); John Pio O'Sullivan; Eamon Ruane (Jr) and Sandra Ruane (RIP); Patrick Holmes; Herby Cummins; Deceased of O'Neill family; Isabel Margaret Kay (RIP); Fr Petroc Howell (RIP); Theresa Rebeiro (Ints); Mary Wheelan (RIP); Dominic Shaji (Thanksgiving); Carolyn Cunningham (RIP); Fr Terence McGuckin (Ints); Michael Joseph (Ints); Alan Thomas (Ints); Ellen Connolly (nee Crotty); Anne Moriarty (RIP); Picton family; Tom Reidy; Larkin, Rogers and McLaughlin families; Rita Saldaha (RIP).

Masses will be offered privately each day by the priests, and all intentions which have been previously booked will be honoured and fulfilled.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart: O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing. I adore you, I love you and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Within your heart I place my every care. In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying, Heart of Jesus, help me. Amen.

Weekly offerings can be placed in the baskets in church or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'.

Baptisms: due to rules concerning public worship, baptisms (apart from those in *periculo mortis*) are to be delayed until such a time as public worship resumes.

Standing Orders or Paypal donations are a great way of giving in times such as these which helps us to keep paying parish bills. Details available on our Parish website. Thank you for all those who are continuing to support the parish during these difficult times.

If you need to speak to either one of the priests, it is encouraged initially to do so via a phone call or email. Similarly, if you should require a priest in an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Presbytery.

We pray for those who have died: Maureen Power (7th July), James Redmond (16th July), Sharon Albert, Louise Sullivan.

A Prayer written by Bede Jarrett, a Dominican friar: We seem to give them back to Thee, O God who gavest them to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world giveth, givest Thou O Lover of souls. What Thou givest Thou takest not away, for what is Thine is ours also if we are thine. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee. And while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where Thou art we may be also for evermore. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers the four deacons of the diocese who are due to be ordained priests this coming July – Benedict Skipper who was with us for part of the last year will be amongst them. Obviously, these are difficult times to make definite plans, but please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for their ordination – whenever it will be!

Magnificat Magazine is an excellent resource for us currently. Each edition contains the prayers and readings for Mass each day, a meditation on the theme of the readings each day, a shortened form of Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, and a number of articles concerning our faith, the Saints, and Christian art. It is a monthly publication and can be delivered directly to your home. To subscribe, you can phone 020 7448 3607.

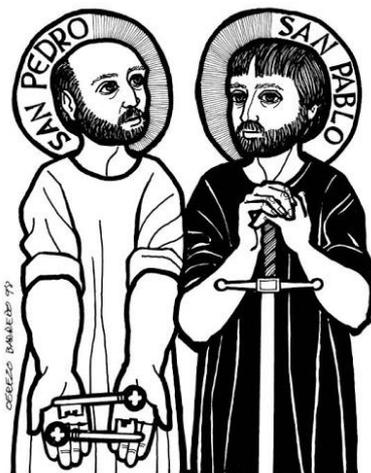
Let us pray for one another at this time, and especially for the sick and those in our hospitals, care homes and local surgeries who care for the sick: that through the prayers we offer both privately and individually, we may soon be united once more together around the altar of God.

An Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

A prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence: O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilent and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass: O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.



READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Acts 3:1-10

Once, when Peter and John were going up to the Temple for the prayers at the ninth hour, it happened that there was a man being carried past. He was a cripple from birth; and they used to put him down every day near the Temple entrance called the Beautiful Gate so that he could beg from the people going in. When this man saw Peter and John on their way into the Temple he begged from them. Both Peter and John looked straight at him and said, 'Look at us.' He turned to them expectantly, hoping to get something from them, but Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but

I will give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!' Peter then took him by the hand and helped him to stand up. Instantly his feet and ankles became firm, he jumped up, stood, and began to walk, and he went with them into the Temple, walking and jumping and praising God. Everyone could see him walking and praising God, and they recognised him as the man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. They were all astonished and unable to explain what had happened to him.

SECOND READING

Galatians 1:11-20

The Good News I preached is not a human message that I was given by men, it is something I learnt only through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You must have heard of my career as a practising Jew, how merciless I was in persecuting the Church of God, how much damage I did to it, how I stood out among other Jews of my generation, and how enthusiastic I was for the traditions of my ancestors. Then God, who had specially chosen me while I was still in my mother's womb, called me through his grace and chose to reveal his Son in me, so that I might preach the Good News about him to the pagans. I did not stop to discuss this with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were already apostles before me, but I went off to Arabia at once and later went straight back from there to Damascus. Even when after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him for fifteen days, I did not see any of the other apostles; I only saw James, the brother of the Lord, and I swear before God that what I have written is the literal truth.

GOSPEL READING

John 21:15-19

Jesus showed himself to his disciples, and after they had eaten he said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. 'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

A MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to “do this in memory of me.” We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening

for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going ‘back to normal.’

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given 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. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes 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 ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

“As I have loved you,” said the Lord Jesus, *“so you must love each other.”* (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool; ✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham; ✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

This letter is addressed to the Catholic Community in England; the opening of the Catholic Churches in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly who are still evaluating their position on opening Places of Worship.