

Re-opening of our Churches

Update on our Parish Preparations

Dear parishioners,

I would like to inform you as to the situation with parish preparations with regards to the eventual re-opening of our churches.

- **Volunteers** - I have almost completed a timetable of volunteers who are willing and importantly allowed to open / close / clean our churches after each use.

There are still a few gaps, so any other volunteers who would like to help, please do get in touch. There must be two volunteers for each time the church is open. If there are not two volunteers for a certain day, the church will remain closed that day.

There will be a volunteer at the entrance and exit of each church.

Guidelines and instructions are being prepared for all volunteers. The duties will include:

- I Opening the church
- II Making sure that people wear the PPE as specified below
- III Ensure social distancing is being adhered to by all.
- IV Wiping down the benches after each period of private prayer
- V Closing the church

For each volunteer there will be for your safety:

- face masks
- aprons
- gloves

All the cleaning products required for cleaning the church after each period of private prayer will be made available.

- **One Way System in Church** - A strict one way system has now been identified in both our churches and is awaiting approval from the Diocesan authorities. Signage will be in church to guide people as to where to go and where to sit.

There will be separate doors for entry and exit from the churches.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** - will be available for the volunteers. This must be worn to ensure your safety. If other people wish to wear PPE this will be available - but that is your choice.

- **Internal & External Doors** - All doors will be kept open during the period of private prayer to enable people not to have to use door handles as much as possible.
- **Hand Sanitiser** - This will be available both at the entrance and the exit of each church and must be used at both doors.
- **Toilet Facilities** - Please note that toilet facilities will **NOT** be available during the period of private prayer.
- **Social Distancing** - The benches will be marked out as to where people may and may not sit. This will enable us to keep to strict social distancing measures. People must not gather in groups in church.
- **Plastic bags** - At the exit of each church will be a plastic bag for all used PPE. This will then be set aside for three days and then disposed of in an appropriate manner.

I can assure parishioners that all measures will be taken to ensure your safety. All of the above will be adhered to.

May I take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those people who kindly offered their help to volunteer, but due to health and age, were unable to do so. Thank you too to all those who have volunteered to help re-open our churches - without you, the church would not open.