

Message from Fr William on Sunday 5th July 2020

Dear People of St Mary's and online visitors to our parish

First, apologies that the website was not up to date last Sunday for my weekly message and the bulletin. Technical problems now resolved. I sent these by email to everyone on the parish database. If you didn't receive this it's because I don't have your email address. Please send it me if you want to be on the parish database for parish communications (only).

During the course of this week I will be in consultation with our Health and Safety Officer to review the options for the opening of our church for mass, and to see what this would look like in terms of social distancing, capacity, one-way systems, and options for holy communion. We'll also be looking at the need for extra volunteer support especially in terms of cleaning, and the increased demands on volunteers and possible risk to safety. Only after we have a clear picture of what it would look like to open the church again for mass and have had a risk assessment signed off by the diocese will I be taking a decision on whether to open the church or to continue in the way we are at present, celebrating mass for all by livestream.

To join us for mass by livestream, click on the big blue link at the top of the website homepage that reads New (:) Livestreams and Recordings . It's the only sure way to get to our livestreams of Mass.

Keeping the church closed has financial implications for the parish. It risks fall in revenue, especially with the hit to the offertory collection, the main source of income for the parish. Please consider setting up a Standing Order if you haven't already done so. Find out how to do this by clicking on the DONATE button on the website home page.

Also on the homepage a Finance Presentation for June 2020 for a picture of our current financial situation. Click on the link at the top of the home page.

New camera arrived in church on Friday and if all goes according to plan we will be using it for the first time this Sunday. Full installation is not yet complete. It has yet to be connected to our own internet signal. We're continuing to use mobile hotspot for now. It has yet to be connected to our amplifier for full audio capability. We're continuing to use a single audio input via lapel microphone on loan. There are bound to be teething problems and adjustments. But we're getting there. I'll be in touch with donors soon.

William