

Message from Fr William on Sunday 12th July 2020

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

I've begun a consultation with our Health and Safety Officer to draw up a proposal for re-opening our church for individual visits and for the public celebration of mass. It's my intention to take this proposal to our Parish Pastoral Council on Monday 20th July for further consultation. There are a lot of factors to be taken into account as explained in my weekly message on previous Sundays. The diocesan guidelines run to seven pages of measures to be put in place before we can consider having a public celebration of mass. Only after we have a clear picture of what it would look like for St Mary's 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 for individual visits or public mass. Until then let us continue to celebrate mass together as a parish by livestream.

The livestreaming equipment we were borrowing has now all gone back to its owner Chris Rawson, who had so kindly lent it to us since Holy Week. A huge thank you to Chris. Without his help and support and equipment we would not have been able to livestream mass. Let's wish him all the best as his own professional assignments as a film producer pick up again with the easing of lockdown on the economy and the increased weekend demand for commercial filming.

Our own livestreaming camera arrived just in time for last Sunday to take over and keep us livestreaming. It is by no means fully installed. The audio has only just been connected to our own amplification system as of Friday (in place of the borrowed radio transmitter/receiver). This is essential since there will ultimately be five audio inputs once we return to full physical participation in the celebration of the mass, and not just the single audio input from your lone parish priest as at present. There is likely to be some trial and error until we find the right audio balance. And we will continue to use a mobile wi-fi hotspot until we get our broadband upgraded to sufficient capacity. This could take a couple of weeks. The final step will be to attach the camera to the wall and carry out the final installation of the audio and Ethernet cabling once we have Historic Churches Committee authorisation.

God bless you all



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