Message from Fr William on Sunday 19th July 2020

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

Nothing much new to report until I've met with the Parish Pastoral Council on Monday this week. The main item on the agenda is to look at what would be involved in opening the church for the public celebration of mass or for individual visits. Only after we have a clear picture of what it would look like for St Mary's to open the church again 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.

If you know of anyone in the parish that might not have access to the internet and might not know what's happening at St Mary's, eg the summary I give in my weekly messages like this one, please pass on the information eg by phone. And thank you to those who are continuing to help parishioners get set up with internet access.

I'm continuing to put our new livestreaming camera through its paces. Contrary to what I wrote last Sunday, I'm still using borrowed audio transmitter/receiver until the audio is hard wired from the amplier, hopefully early this week. We now have a date for upgrading our broadband. 24th July. If all goes well the livestreaming camera will be connected to our upgraded broadband in the week following. Until then we're still hanging on with a mobile hotspot and the signal is not always reliable. I think we've been incredibly lucky so far that the signal hasn't gone down during Sunday Mass. But if the screen freezes that's what's happened, and you could hold on for a bit for it to unfreeze. We keep fingers crossed until the connection to our broadband.

Thank you to all who have taken on the task of drawing up the various ministry rotas. It's a great help to me. In these uncertain times it's helpful to have things in place, just in case we need them, so thanks especially for drawing up the rotas for this new quarter: July to September. Don't forget to send me a copy.

God bless you all

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Sunday 19th July 2020