

## Weekly Message from Fr William on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

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

This is my 19<sup>th</sup> weekly message to the parish, keeping you up to speed with what's happening at St Mary's in these exceptional circumstances.

Vince, our Health and Safety Officer, has been working long hours to get us up and running for our first physically attended mass since lockdown. This is in addition to his full time job. Measures have been put in place, and the 36-page risk assessment has been completed and signed off by parish priest (that's me) and by the diocese. Unless anything unexpected happens the Saturday 6pm Mass for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August will be celebrated with physical attendance by parishioners. At the time of writing, 25 people have registered online for this from the website homepage. Weather permitting the mass will be celebrated on the lawn to minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission and to minimise cleaning after attendance, otherwise in the church. Please print off and bring your ticket, and on arrival take your directions from the stewards. As mentioned last Sunday, physical attendance at mass will be different in many ways to what we are used to because of the many risk mitigating measures we are obliged to put in place. Please be ready for this. The stewards will give you directions and I will talk you through things as we celebrate mass together. Whether in the church or outside, this mass will not be livestreamed. The other two Sunday masses will be livestreamed with no physical attendance.

I'm taking this one week at a time. Next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August the Sunday 10am mass will be with physical attendance and the other two Sunday masses will be livestreamed. You will need to register online if you want to physically attend, from the website homepage. Bookings close Friday noon. At the time of writing the government has just announced that face covering will be required in places of worship from 8<sup>th</sup> August. So please bring face covering.

I fully respect the decision of those who choose to physically attend. And I fully respect the decision of those who choose to remain with livestream participation, for whatever reason (to minimise the risk of transmission, to save lives, to protect the NHS and for plenty of other good reasons). The obligation to attend mass on Sunday either physically or by livestream remains lifted at this present time.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or from a household with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection or who has been advised by the NHS to shield should follow government guidelines and not physically attend Mass.

Anyone who does not yet have online access to the internet and would like to physically attend mass, please would you phone me for now, and I'll fill in the Online Reservation form for you over the phone and print off your ticket for you. It's important that the Online Reservation system has your contact details for Contact-Track-Isolation as explained in my message last Sunday.

St Mary's will be opening for individual visits on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August from 10am to 12noon. No booking will be required. Please bring face covering. Stewards will give directions.

I still need volunteers please to take on the role of Stewards. Volunteers need to be between 18 and 70, and obviously not shielding. Please get in touch with me today if you would be able to put yourself forward for this role. You will receive training.

I still need volunteers please to take on the role of sanitising the church after mass if the church is used. Volunteers need to be between 18 and 70, and obviously not shielding. Please get in touch with me today if you would be able to put yourself forward for this role. You will receive training.

Parishioners and SVP have shared information with others on how to Livestream, either by word of mouth or in writing. It seems to have been most successful where family members have then been able to help each other set up the website. This has enabled some families to share Livestreamed Masses while remaining geographically separated in their own homes, not just in Knaresborough but in other parts of the country. If you know of any other parishioners who might not yet have internet access please consider giving them your help and encouragement to get set up – not just so they can join us for mass, but for all the other benefits of being online.

If you know of any parishioner who may not be getting this weekly message, keeping the parish up to speed with what's happening, maybe because they don't yet have internet, please consider printing this off and getting it to them.

I'm leaving up on the website my message to the parish of last Sunday. It has helpful information about the options of physical attendance and livestream participation in mass that this current message pre-supposes.

Happy Sunday and God bless you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020