

Weekly Message from Fr William on Sunday 9th August 2020

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

We had our first celebration of mass by physical attendance last Sunday (the Saturday 6pm Mass) since lockdown. It was a lovely occasion, and I was delighted to see everyone that came and to be seeing the people I was celebrating mass with after more than four months of livestream only.

I'm now putting on the website a summary of the measures that we will be observing for physically attended celebrations of mass. This is based on the latest directives from the diocese, with some adaptation to our own needs based on our experience of last Sunday. For example I'm dispensing with the need for attendees to print off and bring their automatically generated ticket. The online registration service I've taken out a subscription to has a facility for printing out a list of attendees which I give to the stewards. So all you have to do is check in with the stewards on arrival, and give your name. The full summary of measures referred to in this paragraph you'll find in the Coronavirus section on parish website homepage. Click on the link '[celebrating mass by physical attendance August 2020](#)'. Please have a read of this before you come. If for example you forget to bring a face covering the stewards will have no option but to ask you to come another time. We have to be black and white about all these measures. The Coronavirus pandemic remains very real and we need to be rigorous in following government and diocesan directives, to play our part in combating the virus.

Sunday 10am Mass this Sunday will be physically attended and I can see many parishioners have registered online. I look forward to seeing you! As last Sunday this will be in the garden weather permitting, otherwise in church. The Sat 6 and the Sun 5 will be livestreamed.

Next Sunday 16th August the Sunday 5pm mass will be by physical attendance. The Sat 6pm and the Sun 10am will be livestreamed. Look out for the online registration on the website homepage if you'd like to join us for the Sunday 5pm by physical attendance. Online registration closes Friday noon.

As mentioned last Sunday, 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 a number of good reasons (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 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.

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.

We've taken another step towards completing the installation of our livestreaming equipment. Tuesday last week the camera was Ethernet connected to our recently upgraded broadband. Thank you to Chris Clissitt for managing all the aspects of getting our broadband upgraded. This will have other benefits for the parish as well as providing the broadband capacity we need for the livestreaming.

We were planning to have our first opening of the church for individual visits on Saturday 8th August (10am to 12noon). I'm afraid I needed to cancel this as we don't yet have enough volunteers for stewarding and volunteers for cleaning. We'll try again for this Saturday 15th August, same time 10am to 12noon. Please bring face covering. Stewards will give directions. No booking required. But keep an eye on the website for any updates.

Yes, we need more volunteers for stewarding and volunteers for cleaning. Please get in touch with me if you can offer this ministry. Volunteers need to be between 18 and 70, and obviously not shielding. You will receive training.

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.

Happy Sunday and God bless you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'W'.

Sunday 9nd August 2020