

Weekly Message from Fr William on Sunday 16th August 2020

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

We are now up and running with celebration of Mass both by livestream and by physical attendance. Thank you to all who have made this possible.

This Sunday will be our third Sunday since lockdown with a celebration of Mass by physical attendance. Attendance figures so far have been 31, 14, 18. Capacity is 33. Until there is greater demand for it I'm intending to continue dedicating just one celebration of mass per Sunday to physical attendance. The other two will be by livestream. I'll be taking one week at a time and keeping this under constant review. Livestream seems at the moment to suit most people. It will look like I'm rotating this around the three Sunday masses, and effectively yes I have been, but not committing myself to this. The coronavirus situation is constantly changing and I'm taking one Sunday at a time.

I'm continuing to work closely with Vince as our Health and Safety Officer to ensure that everyone who comes for mass by physical attendance both is safe and also feels safe. As people feel increasingly confident about this it may be that more people opt to come and celebrate by physical attendance. I'm grateful to those who have volunteered to be stewards and who are helping to ensure the safety of all. Celebrating outside reduces the risk of coronavirus transmission which is why outside is the current default at St Mary's. Although not as important as inside, wearing a face covering is still a way of further reducing the risk of transmission even outside and exercising concern for the wellbeing of everybody else. So I want to thank everybody who came for the Sunday 10am mass last week and automatically wore their face coverings on arrival and throughout.

If you're coming to a celebration of Mass by physical attendance please visit the website homepage and click on the link '[celebrating mass by physical attendance August 2020](#)' and have a read of this before you come.

Next Sunday 23th August the Saturday 6pm mass will be by physical attendance. Look out for the online registration on the website homepage if you'd like to join us for this. I'm putting back the time for the close of online registration to Friday 6pm. The Sun 10am and the Sun 5pm will be livestreamed.

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 for you. It's important that the Online Reservation system has your contact details for Contact-Track-Isolation.

If you're celebrating mass with me by livestream, you'll find the thumbnail in the usual place via the Livestream link at the top of the website homepage. If anybody has any problems with accessing this please let me know.

The church will be open for individual visits on Saturday 15th from 10am to 12noon (we now have steward volunteers for this) and again 22nd August from 10am to 12noon (if we have steward volunteers). Please bring face covering. Stewards will give directions. No booking required. But keep an eye on the website for any updates.

We still 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 letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Solemnity of the Assumption Sunday 16th August 2020