

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 13th September 2020

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

I know the bulletin has been a bit static in recent months, reflecting the hit to church initiatives on a local and national level. There's a few more opportunities happening now, both on a diocesan and a national level, that parishioners might be interested in. This is reflected in this week's bulletin.

I appealed to the parish in my homily three Sundays ago to forego as far as possible activities or social meetings that might increase the risk of coronavirus transmission, so that we could as a nation prioritise the opening of our schools. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made and are continuing to make to minimise the risk of transmission and maximise the chances of a full and sustained opening of our schools. The opening of our schools and other essential elements of our economy will inevitably increase the R value and the rate of transmission. But it's essential we open our schools and other key elements of the economy and therefore essential that we are prepared to make sacrifices in other areas of our life to balance this out, including parish activities. Our schools are now open. Let's work together to minimise the risk of transmission and thereby keep them open.

I want to express thanks in particular to Vince for the tremendous amount of care and attention he has put into making possible the opening of St Mary's for physical attendance at Mass. As our Health and Safety Officer he has coordinated and implemented a set of measures and structures to ensure that our celebrations of mass by physical attendance are as covid secure as possible. In this he not only put into effect a covid secure plan for physical attendance and completed a 36 page risk assessment that secured the authorisation from the diocese, but he has kept us safe, and continues to keep us safe, while at the same time minimising any chance that we as a parish might contribute to the spread of coronavirus in the local community. Thank you also to the stewards and cleaners supporting him in this.

Happy Sunday God bless you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William', written in a cursive style.

Sunday 13th September 2020