

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 4th October 2020

Dear People of St Mary's and online visitors to our parish, I hope you're well and safe and happy!

I explained at Mass last Sunday how it's been consistently clear from the numbers that celebrating mass by livestream has a bigger take up than physical attendance, and that this in itself is good reason to prioritise livestream. It reaches more people. But in addition to this we're seeing a nationwide resurgence in coronavirus cases. We need to help pull this back down, for the sake of each other, for the sake of the economy, and livestream gives us the opportunity. We've got to keep our schools open. We've got to try and keep other key sectors of the economy going. For these two reasons – the bigger up take on livestream, and the resurgence in coronavirus cases – I've decided to put a pause on mass by physical attendance and for the time being dedicate all three Sunday masses to livestream.

The camera was fixed to the wall on Friday, which I hope will be its final place, pending authorisation from the Historic Churches Committee in November. I'm sad that I can't now come up closer for the homily as I have been doing since we began livestreaming on Easter Sunday. But it needs to be there, fixed above head height, in preparation for when we return to physical attendance so that we can combine both physical attendance and livestream at the same time. The Ethernet and audio cabling is still loose and dangling until we get authorisation from HCC in November for it to be embedded permanently.

Keep well, keep safe, keep each other safe

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

Sunday 4th October 2020