

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 8th November 2020

Dear People of St Mary's

The new government regulations that came into effect on 5th November permit individual visits to church for prayer, contemplation, quiet, etc. So the planned opening of the church for this Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, is going ahead 2pm to 4pm, and I'm grateful to the volunteer stewards who are making this possible. I'm afraid lighting candles is still not permitted.

November is traditionally a time when we remember and pray for our loved ones who have died, and it's my intention to open the church for individual visits each Saturday throughout November 10am to 12noon starting Saturday 14th November if steward volunteers are available. Please check the website for any last minute changes, and in particular my weekly messages and the weekly bulletins that go out onto the website each Friday evening in anticipation of Sunday. As usual I put a paper copy of message and bulletin on the church door.

Mass will be livestream for all three Sunday masses for the rest of November as per the new government regulations, with congregation celebrating mass from home.

There's a lot going on as you'll see on the bulletin, with a range of opportunities to take up if you want to, especially online. And parishioners are continuing to help and support each other and keep in touch by phone and facetime etc. Thank you to the SVP and to all who are giving extra support at this time, and especially if you've been helping people get setup with internet and online capability for online shopping etc and keeping in touch with the parish.

On Friday evening (6th Nov) I started the confirmation preparation course with the 2021 cohort of candidates and their families, by zoom and by family catechesis. We have 9 candidates for confirmation.

I'm putting on the website homepage a new FAQ (frequently asked questions) from Bishop Marcus relating to this current period of lockdown (5th Nov to 2nd Dec) and its implications for our parish life, and also a 4th November statement from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Keep well, keep safe, keep each other safe.

God bless you and your home



Sunday 8th November