

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear People of St Mary's

At the time of writing, the Diocese hasn't yet issued its guidelines on in-church celebration of mass as we come out of the November lockdown on Wednesday. Pending the diocesan guidelines we plan for one in-church celebration of mass for the Second Sunday of Advent (6<sup>th</sup> December) and this will be the Saturday 6pm.

The livestream camera and the cabling is now off the floor, though not yet trunked in. It's deemed safe by Health and Safety to now allow in-church participation. We no longer have to pack away the livestream kit to allow an in-church congregation. This means we can combine livestream with in-church participation. So the in-church celebration of mass for the Saturday 6pm Mass next Sunday (6<sup>th</sup> December) will be also livestreamed.

This means that the mass experience for those livestreaming will be different. With a congregation in church there will be no singing (prohibited by government because of increased aerosol). I won't be coming up close for the homily. And I will be adhering to the diocesan recommendation we have no bidding prayers, to minimise the time in-church participants are in church in a potential covid environment.

The other two masses (Sun 10am, Sun 5pm) will be livestreamed only, with singing, and with close up homily. Livestream continues to be the safest way of participating in the mass for self and for others, reducing the risk of viral transmission to zero.

In-church participants will need to register online from the parish website as before, by Friday 6pm latest on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please read the link on the website homepage '[celebration of mass by in-church participation](#)' before coming and follow the measures detailed. There is now additional information for in-church participants about the mass being livestreamed.

Please check out the website next Sunday and my weekly message in particular for any changes to this plan in the light of diocesan guidelines when they come out. It should be on the website by Saturday morning, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

I've been calling our two ways of celebrating mass: 'by livestream' and 'by physical attendance'. I realise this is misleading. If you're celebrating from home, then the mass is happening in your home as much as it is in the church. So if you're livestreaming mass in your home you are just as physically present in the mass as I am. So I'll try from now on to talk about 'livestream' participation and 'in-church' participation.

A lot of really interesting opportunities on at the moment as we go into Advent, detailed in the bulletin. I wish I had time to join in them all!

