

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Second Week of Ordinary Time

Dear People of St Mary's,

The school is continuing to do an excellent job with over 50 children in school, who are either vulnerable or from the families of key workers. In addition, they are providing an outstanding programme of on-line learning and support for all, with contact for every child. Mrs Tomlinson and the staff are doing a great job and we can be proud of our parish school.

Government's Coronavirus Places of Worship Taskforce, disseminated to us by the diocese, is asking us to encourage and support the roll-out of the vaccines. This includes encouragement to take up the offer of vaccines whenever it is offered to you. Pope Francis will be vaccinated this week, and I will be taking up the invitation for a vaccine just as soon as it comes my way. Volunteers are also being called for to help at vaccinations hubs/centres. There are a lots of different roles that are necessary such as stewarding, as well as a request for former healthcare workers to assist in the inoculation programme. We're told that volunteers can apply through local health commissioning groups but I haven't been able to establish who they are or how to contact them, so if anybody can find this for me I can include this in my message next week.

The Government has published its vaccination roll-out plan. I thought you might find this informative, so here it is:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951284/UK_COVID-19_vaccines_delivery_plan.pdf

As mentioned in my message last week, regulations for this third national coronavirus lockdown exempt our churches from closure, which are permitted to remain open for in-church mass. However, due to the current national surge of infection and the increased threat to you and to our society at this time I am again taking the decision, as I did with the pandemic surge in October, to voluntarily keep St Mary's closed till further notice. Celebration of mass will be by livestream only. I miss seeing you.

Confirmation classes begin again this Friday 7pm following the break we took over the Christmas season. Hence the switch of the Friday mass from 7pm to 9am.

As mentioned last time you can now make a virtual visit to our church through the week via livestream. I'll do my best to continue to make this possible. If you get a black screen it's because it's after dark (or before dawn) and I haven't put the lights on! Weekday masses continue to be livestreamed.



Second Sunday Ordinary Time 17th January 2021