

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 2021

Dear People of St Mary's, 200 club June 2021 draw is out! Watch it as it happens if you can bear the suspense! Website > Parish Life > 200 Club: **THIS MONTH'S DRAW**

At the time of writing I'm waiting for the new guidelines to come through from the Conference of Bishops and from the Diocese for the lifting of remaining COVID restrictions. I think you can safely assume that starting from next Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July there will be at St Mary's: No more social distancing in church, seating returned to pre-pandemic layout, and that congregation singing will be permitted. I'll confirm this and other details in next Sunday's weekly message once I've received and assimilated the guidance coming in from the diocese. See next weekly message which will be on the website by Saturday morning 24<sup>th</sup> July as usual.

Online registration may still be required for contact tracing, so please continue to register online for in-church participation until the situation on this becomes clearer. You will now be able to register online for any of the three Sunday masses starting 25<sup>th</sup> July, with no cap on capacity.

When this step 4 out of lockdown was first envisioned by the government it was generally assumed that we would be emerging into a more or less covid free situation. But the virus has continued to throw unpredictable twists, and we are not emerging into a covid free environment. Some sectors in society (eg London Transport) are continuing to mandate some of the restrictions such as mandatory face coverings. In light of this, the Conference of Bishops will almost certainly want to give guidance to parishes taking this into account, and taking into account the particular needs of parishes and places of worship, and I'm sure will be recommending a cautious approach.

For the foreseeable future, or unless the diocese countermands, I will be keeping the following measures in place not only to keep you feeling safe, but keep you actually being safe: There'll be no collection plate going round, and I encourage you to continue using cash free methods of donating to the offertory collection and the second collections. There'll continue to be no sign of peace other than between priest and congregation. Communion in one kind only so that we are not sharing a chalice. Could I ask you also to be ready to bring a face covering in case this is recommended by the diocese in the forthcoming guidance.

I'm celebrating Mass with our primary school tomorrow Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am by livestream. This is their end of year mass. The school are wisely retaining all covid restrictions beyond 19<sup>th</sup> July and until the end of term. So this will once again be by livestream. All as welcome to join us online!

Watch this space. Next weekly message here by Saturday a.m. 24<sup>th</sup> July for the latest.



Sixteenth Sunday of  
Ordinary Time, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021