

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

Dear People of St Mary's

Two page message this week. Lots to tell you.

Following on from my message to you last Sunday, all three Sunday masses this Sunday are with in-church participation, and livestreamed.

REGISTRATION: Thank you those who registered online 'just in case' as advised last Sunday. Following further consultation with H&S and studying the guidelines we're switching from online registration to QR codes instead. Please consider downloading the NHS Covid app and scanning the code on arrival or on your way out. Starting this Sunday and till further notice there is no need to have registered online in advance for in-church participation.

STEWARDS: We will still need one steward per mass. Volunteers please for each mass from those who have already signed the declaration.

SPACING: Please leave a space between each family group/bubble.

CAPACITY: The 30 cap is lifted. We're expecting a slow return to church. In the unlikely event that we reach safe capacity you may be invited to come to another mass. This will be reviewed each Sunday and it may be necessary to return to advance online booking.

FACE COVERINGS: Now optional but recommended, especially when singing.

SEATING LAYOUT: Familiar pre-pandemic layout but with a wider exclusion zone front centre for your safety.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: One per mass until further notice.

VENTILATION: Atrium and Bond End doors open throughout.

COLLECTIONS: I'm currently promoting cashless donating, including a digital collection plate for the atrium. Please have your mobile phone and/or credit/debit card handy. We're not currently handing cash donations. Please continue to support the parish financially. We need this support.

STANDING AND SITTING: We have sometimes stood together for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite, eg during the Easter Season. It's a liturgical stance adopted by many Catholic communities around the world. We each share in the priesthood of Christ and are offering the sacrifice of the mass together. While the risk of viral transmission is still not eliminated, standing/sitting also removes the problem of contact with and aerosol transmission to the chair in front of you. So I

will be again inviting you to stand with me for the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite. Please feel free to sit instead, and at any time during the Mass.

SIGN OF PEACE: Between priest and congregation only.

COMMUNION: In church for this Sunday, at the proper communion time. Please maintain space between families, keeping the person in front of you safe. I will continue to be meticulous in keeping the hosts safe.

SHARED CHALICE: Not at this time.

APRÈS-MASS SOCIALISING: Outside, eg in the garden, this Sunday. This will help to minimise aerosol in church and time spend in church.

APRÈS-MASS REFRESHMENTS: Not yet.

HANDOUTS: Weekly message, and bulletin with its associated links. Please continue to access these from the website as you have been doing these last 15 months. Print off a copy if you want. You won't need them for Mass.

TOILETS: Doors will be wedged open at approx 45 degrees as we did before the first lockdown for ventilation.

HAND SANITISER: This will be readily available in the Atrium.

Measures will continue to be reviewed week by week.

For Covid-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales see parish website homepage.

For Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England 'Sunday – it is our Day' see parish website homepage.

Keep well ! Keep safe ! Keep each other safe ! And enjoy being back in church !

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Seventeenth Sunday of
Ordinary Time, 25th July 2021