

## Weekly Message from Fr William for Twenty-Ninth Sunday Ordinary Time 2021

Dear People of St Mary's,

The main purpose of this weekly message, introduced in March 2020, is to keep you informed about current arrangements for Mass and help you decide whether to participate in church or to participate online at home.

As from this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October the Bond End doors will be closed during Mass at least until the weather gets warmer again in Spring/Summer. The upside of this is that it will be warmer in church. The downside is that we won't have the same level of through ventilation, one of our most important covid measures we've had in place to minimise the risk of viral transmission.

My current advice to you, since July, is that face coverings are optional but recommended, especially when singing. With the Bond End doors closed there is added reason to opt in for face coverings if you want to keep other people safe. If you choose to opt out of face coverings, and some people will have good reasons for doing so, then you should really opt out of singing too.

The Atrium doors will be left open to the outside until I review this again, and one window in church. This will maintain a bit of the through ventilation achieved by open Bond End doors, and intentionally only a bit because we're trying to keep people warm as well going into Autumn and Winter. We can put the ceiling extractor fan on as well, but see my comments in last Sunday's weekly message.

Some, I know, are understandably concerned about this move to close the Bond End doors during Mass. And I'm sure others will be glad of it. This is where I'm putting the balance at the moment to keep us warm and to keep us safe. As always these measures are open to further review in due course.

I hope this info helps to decide whether to celebrate Mass with the parish at home or in church. There's also some variation across the three Sunday Masses, and I could give approximate percentages of opting in for wearing face coverings at each Mass if this would help decide which to join.

If at any point during the Mass you feel cold on the one hand or unsafe on the other, please feel free to retire/pull out.

For the full list of current covid measures updated for this Sunday, click 'Celebration of Mass by in-church participation' on the website homepage.

Keep warm! Keep safe!



Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021