

Weekly Message from Fr William for Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time 2021

Dear People of St Mary's,

Thanks for the increased take-up of face covering last Sunday especially when singing, to compensate for the closing of the Bond End doors for autumn/winter and reduced through ventilation. It really helps to keep others safe and feeling safe.

The government is currently resisting the advice of their scientific advisors on SAGE that due to rising Covid cases England should be adopting Covid Plan B, to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS and acting early to prevent even more severe restrictions in the months to come. Plan B would include compulsory face coverings in some settings and asking people to work from home where possible. Although the government is currently resisting this advice, there is nothing to stop us from voluntarily adopting reasonable restrictions to do our bit, as we have before during the pandemic. As well as opting in for face coverings, especially when singing, I would fully respect individual decisions to once again celebrate Mass with us from home by livestream.

We reintroduced refreshments after Sunday 10am some weeks ago. We're now thinking to drop this due to lack of take-up. For socialising after Mass, my advice is still to move to a fresh space to be sure you're not breathing in a potential build-up of covid aerosol in church, or contributing to it. The hall provides a socialising area alternative to the garden as we go into autumn. Covid measures are in place for post-mass refreshments in the hall to keep everyone safe, including table service, paper cups and plates, through ventilation, no cash handling. Feel free to take face covering off once seated. Otherwise the advice remains that face coverings are recommended indoors to keep others safe. Please consider using this opportunity in the hall while we've still got it; hopefully a bigger uptake will encourage us to keep it going. It will be an even more important option for our post-mass socialising as we go into winter.

From this Sunday I'm widening the livestream field of vision so that those celebrating Mass with us from home feel more part of the congregation. Click on 'livestream field of vision' on the website homepage to view the new and wider field of vision.

Your text giving increased again from August to September for the Offertory collection, and doubled for your donations to the Building Loan Fund. Thank you for getting your phone out and donating to the parish. Your financial support is vital. And thank you always to those who support the parish with Standing Orders.

I've switched the NHS venue QR code from the wall in church back to hard copy in the Atrium. It's on the notice board.



Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 24th October 2021