**PUBLIC MASS IN THE PARISH**

With the lifting of some of the strict regulations that had been in place during the most serious part of the COVID19 outbreak both our Parish churches are now open for public worship with a restricted timetable of Masses initially to see how things go.

**THE PATTERN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS**

(Note it is different from last newsletter)

* **WEDNESDAY**  at St Joseph’s Church at 9.15am
* **THURSDAY**  at The Willows Church at 9.15am
* **SUNDAY**  at St Joseph’s Church at 9.30am
* **SUNDAY**  at The Willows Church at 11.00am

As you can see, it is far from ‘back to normal’, as we all need to “STAY SAFE”! By separating the Masses by at least 72 hours we avoid having to constantly clean the churches after every Mass as is required for places with large public gatherings.

**NB** There is still NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION so it would be acceptable to make one of the Weekday Masses your main Mass, therefore avoiding too many people trying to get in the church on Sundays. This will hopefully avoid turning people away once the limited seating is taken.

** NB** THE STEWARDS WILL ASK YOU TO SANITIZE YOUR HANDS AT THE ENTRANCE AND FILL IN THE NHS TEST AND TRACE INFORMATION DOCKET. THEY MAY ALSO HELP YOU FIND A PLACE TO SIT WHEN YOU GO INTO CHURCH.

Please see the second page of this newsletter for full details of how Mass will be celebrated under these conditions. Because there is still NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION so it would be acceptable to make one of the Weekday Masses your main Mass, therefore avoiding too many people trying to get in the church on Sundays. This will hopefully avoid turning people away once the limited seating is taken.

Please observe all the signs in church. The COVID19 virus is ever present and we must all play our part in doing our best not to let it spread among our community. *(Fr Andrew)*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

It is still too early to celebrate Baptisms. I will inform those parents who had to postpone their children’s baptisms as soon as we get the go-ahead from the Bishops to resume services. In the meantime, may I ask Parishioners to pray for those waiting for Baptism and other Sacraments at this time. *(Fr Andrew)*

**‘ETERNAL REST GRANT TO HIM, O LORD!’**

Sad news for the Parish – PATRICK (PADDY) NEVIN of Wrea Green died on Friday, 3rd July aged 75 years. There will be a family funeral service for him this Wednesday, 15th July at The Willows Church, followed by cremation at Lytham. Keep his wife, Ruth, and the family in your prayers. MAY HE REST IN PEACE! *(Fr Andrew)*

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**OFFERTORY**

May I thank all those who were able to give their offertory during lockdown. That can still happen via the presbytery letterboxes if you are not attending Mass. Collection at Mass will be as a retiring one is usually taken, as you leave church. *(Fr Andrew)*

**FOOD BANK**

Thank you to parishioners over at St Joseph’s who have managed to continue their generous giving to the Food Bank via Harry Smith during the Coronavirus lockdown.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**, for all in local hospitals, Nursing and Rest Homes and all anniversaries at this time.

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Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 294337
Resuming the celebration of Public Masses at The Holy Cross Parish
St John the Evangelist, (The Willows) Kirkham and St Joseph’s,
Wesham

IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR BISHOP’S INSTRUCTION
- WHICH IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

+ 
- When entering church, a steward will greet you and invite you to sanitize your hands (this is obligatory). Please do not stand around talking unless you can socially distance at 2 metres.
- The stewards will indicate to you where you can sit. The place is marked with a yellow indicator. Please keep your distance with the other person on your bench.
- Maximum safe capacity is only 46 at The Willows Church and 52 at St Joseph’s Church using the 2 metre Safe-Distancing recommendation or more if a family/couples are sitting together. *(If we go down to 1 metre plus we will ALL have to wear face covering).* Unfortunately, when we have reached the safe capacity limit you will not be able to enter church for Mass.
- To ease the pressure on Sundays, please consider attending Mass on a weekday if you can, as there is still *NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION*.
- We will see how this works in the first week and consider, then, whether a reservation system needs to be introduced.
- Use of toilets will not be possible.
- There will be no music or congregational singing.
- Readers are asked to volunteer at whichever Mass they attend (let the Priest know before Mass) AND SHOULD WEAR SINGLE-USE GLOVES PROVIDED.
- There will be no homily.
- There will be NO PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (Intercessions)
- You will be able to make an offering to the parish in a basket as you leave church as no formal collection will be taken.
- Congregation should not exchange the Sign of Peace
- After the words “Lord I am not worthy……” the Priest will hold up the Host to the Congregation and say audibly “The Body of Christ” and then hold up the chalice and say “The Blood of Christ”, to which the congregation respond in each case “Amen.”
- The Priest, having received his Holy Communion, will recite the Prayer after Holy Communion, then give the Blessing and Dismissal.
- Holy Communion will be given by the priest and only under one kind (Host) IN THE HAND and will be given and received silently.
- People should come for Holy Communion at a 2 metre distance to the person in front and approach the Priest with arms at full stretch to preserve the safe distance between them and the Priest.
- They should then immediately leave the church.
- Please do not stop in the porch for social interaction, go outside. Ideally, you would sanitize your hands again on leaving.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Please see Bishop Paul’s Decree for the Coronavirus Outbreak on our Website regarding certain dispensations for this Sacrament during the Pandemic. (If you feel you really need to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a grave reason please give me a call and I can meet you in the grounds of The Willows Church. (Close confinement in the Confessional is difficult at this time due to COVID19 transmission.)