

**WELCOME – THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS, STOURBRIDGE.  
A COMMUNITY OF LOVE, PRAYER AND SERVICE**

**A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S FAITHFUL.**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STOURBRIDGE - CTIS**

**WEBSITE** [www.olas.org.uk](http://www.olas.org.uk)  
**LIVE STREAMING**  
**LIVE WEBCAM –**  
[www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-all-saints](http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-all-saints)

**PARISH NEWS/LETTER/BULLETIN/NEWSPAPER!!!!**

**Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church  
13 New Road  
STOURBRIDGE**

**West Midlands  
DY8 1PQ**

**GO IN PEACE**  
telling the Good News  
sharing in the Breaking of the Bread  
enriching the Community  
through our talents, treasure and time:  
transforming the Community  
by prayer and by action.

**In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
AMEN.**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY 06/07TH JUNE 2020 YEAR A**  
"A Judaeo - Christian Community in the Roman Catholic Tradition"

DATE	JUNE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	FEAST
Saturday	06TH	5-00PM	Intentions Bishop David McGough	FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY
Sunday	07TH	08-30AM 10-30AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Intentions Glennis and John Cornick [60WA]	
Monday	08TH	9-00AM	Patricia Okeke RIP	ST COLOMBA
Tuesday	09TH	9-00AM	Damian McCooey RIP	
Wednesday	10TH	9-00AM	Domingo Parames Parames RIP	ST BARNABAS
Thursday	11TH	9-00AM	Intentions Kieran Devenney	
Friday	12TH	9-00AM	Fr Eugene Nee RIP	ST ANTHONY
Saturday	13TH	10-00AM 5-00PM	Arnold Toni RIP Intentions Festo Abad/ John Carbone	
Sunday	14TH	08-30AM 10-30AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH Patrick McManus RIP	FEAST OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

**SERVED by and Contact Details:**

**OUR PRIEST DEAN OF DUDLEY DEANERY  
CHAPLAIN HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
E-mail [des56@hotmail.com](mailto:des56@hotmail.com)  
Fr Desmond Devenney  
01384 395308 [24HOURS]  
**RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN**  
Rev Mr. Thomas Tranter 01384 395308

**OUR PARISH SECRETARY/OUR PARISH GIFT AID ORGANISER/  
PARISH CENTRE – INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS**  
Mrs. Sarah Price 01384 395308  
**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
E-mail [olasoffice@talktalk.net](mailto:olasoffice@talktalk.net)  
**MONDAY/TUESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY**  
**11-00AM – 1-30PM WEDNESDAY – CLOSED**

**Have a WONDERFUL Week - Filled with Faith + Joy,  
Love + Peace**  
**Do Take Great Care Fr Des 06/06/2020 23-45PM**  
**THANKYOU/VIELEN DANK /GRACIAS/ GRAZIE/  
MERCII/ OBRIGADO**  
**THE PARISH IS PART OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF  
BIRMINGHAM – REGISTERED CHARITY NO 234216**

**We pray that God will bless our Parish and all our homes  
and families for the many good unseen things that go on  
- which are always seen by God.**  
**THANK YOU SO MUCH**

**We remember all those who have died recently –  
BERNADETTE KAVANAGH, IRENE MORAES –  
PASK, WINIFRED COOKSON, JOANNA BAZEN,  
TOM REYNOLDS, ARNOLD TONI, RIP.**

**'God loves each of us  
as if there were only one of us.'**

*Saint Augustine  
(354-430)*

### **REFLECTION ON FORGIVENESS.**

*Dear Jesus, we are often in your presence in a special way. You are always present to us, as you were to the mother in law of Peter. You touched all the sick and cured them - you were able to cast out the worries and anxieties that they had. Stretch out your healing hand and cure us of our worries our cares, our anxieties. Heal us of any bitterness or hatred that might be in our hearts. Help us to reconcile ourselves with our neighbour wherever that is necessary. Give us your peace of mind – then we will be able to see what we can change in our lives. Then we will have gratitude in our hearts always - praise the Lord who heals the broken - hearted.*

## **ANYWAY**

**People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;**

**FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY**

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives:**

**BE KIND ANYWAY**

**If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;**

**SUCCEED ANYWAY.**

**If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;**

**BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY.**

**What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.**

**BUILD ANYWAY.**

**If you find serenity and happiness they may be jealous;**

**BE HAPPY ANYWAY**

**The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;**

**DO GOOD ANYWAY**

**Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough:**

**GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY.**

**You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God:**

**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**

*When Jesus looks at anyone He not only sees who they are, but what they can become. In Simon, the impetuous fisherman, He saw Peter, the rock of His Church. In Levi, the tax collector, He saw Matthew the author of one of the four Gospels. In John, the son of thunder, He saw the beloved disciple. That is how Jesus knows you and me, and this is precisely why He has faith in us. He sees possibilities in everyone of us that no one else has ever seen.*

*This faith that Jesus has in His followers is rooted in unconditional love. This seems hard to believe. Jesus staked His belief in His followers the night before He died, knowing full well of their infidelity. One would betray Him, others would forsake Him, and one would deny Him. He knew all this long before it ever happened. Do you think He stopped loving them because of this? Certainly not. He loved them before it happened. He loved them during their disloyalty. He loved them when it was over. His love was not dependant on their loyalty.*

*Is there anyone listening to me whose heart is hurting with guilt? Are you ashamed of something you have done or something you have not done? Do you think that Jesus has stopped loving you because of this? May I assure you that His love for you has never wavered or changed one bit. I don't know how that makes you feel. I know how it made Peter feel. When He had realised what he had done, and when he remembered what Jesus had told Him, it broke his heart and he wept bitterly. So be convinced that Christ has faith in you. Knowing the faith He has in us may inspire us to renew our faith in Him.*

### **STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION**

1. *The Resurrection of Jesus.*
2. *Mary Magdalen finds the Empty Tomb. (Mt.28:1-8)*
3. *Peter and John at the Tomb. (Lk.24:12)*
4. *The Road to Emmaus. (Lk.24:13-27)*
5. *The Breaking of Bread. (Lk. 24:30-32)*
6. *Jesus appears in Upper Room/ Apostles receive Holy Spirit to forgive (Lk.24:36-43)/( Jn.20:21-23)*
7. *Thomas believes. (Jn. 20:24-29)*
8. *Jesus meets Apostles at Lake Galilee. (Jn. 21:4-14)*
9. *Peter is told "Feed my Sheep". (Jn. 21:15-19)*
10. *Jesus sends the Apostles on Mission. (Mt.28:16-20)*
11. *The Ascension (Lk.24:50-53/Acts 1:6-11)*
12. *The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts. 2.1-4)*
13. *The Apostles preach in Jerusalem (Acts. 2:5-13)*
14. *Peter heals a lame man. (Acts. 3:1-10)*
15. *Peter raises Dorcas. (Acts.9:36-43)*

### **PRAYER OF ST.RICHARD OF CHICHESTER**

*"Thanks be to you Our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly."*

**Thank you so much for your continued support of the foodbank during this very difficult times:**

**FOODBANK SHORTAGES this week.**

**FOOD SHORTAGES TINNED POTATOES / INSTANT MASH PACKETS, TINNED SPAGHETTI, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED MEAT, [e.g. meatballs, Fray Bentos Pies,] LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE (1L cartons), TINNED RICE PUDDING, TINNED CUSTARD, JARS JAM / MARMALADE, LONG-LIFE (UHT) MILK 1L CARTONS, COOKING SAUCES – JARS – SMALL JARS OF COFFEE  
NON-FOOD SHORTAGES SHAMPOO, SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES, DEODORANT, SOAP, HAND-SANITISER, TOILET ROLLS, WASHING-UP LIQUID**

**May the Lord's Touch Strengthen Us  
May the Lord's Words Encourage Us  
May the Lord's Ways Inspire Us**

***A Prayer in Times of Pandemic –***

***Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith, we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. We ask our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.***

***May God the Father who created each one of us in his own image and likeness and calls us by name bless us and keep us safe each day.***

***May Jesus the Risen Lord who redeemed us all from sin by dying on the Cross and opened for us the path to the eternal life embrace us and hold us in his loving arms.***

***May the Holy Spirit the Paraclete who gives us his seven fold gifts and the power to live daily the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit anoint us and strengthen us to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.***

**MARYVALE SACRED HEART NOVENA**

***All are invited to join online for the Annual Novena to the Sacred Heart at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart at Maryvale Institute.***

***There will be a Mass, Sermon and Novena live streamed each evening at 8pm from Thursday 11 June to Friday 19 June 2020 (Feast of the Sacred Heart).***

***Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating Mass on Sunday 21 June at 11am (on the day the 'physical' Pilgrimage would have taken place). It will be live streamed from St Chad's Cathedral.***

***May God the Father who created us be with you and protect you.***

***May Jesus the Son who redeemed us guide you and give you strength***

***May the Holy Spirit who makes us holy watch over you, keep you in his care, and bless you always with his peace.***

**Full details, and how to access each event, are available on the Diocesan website: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/join-online-maryvale-sacred-heart-novena> and Maryvale Institute website: <https://www.maryvale.ac.uk/novena-2020.html>**

**MARCH FOR LIFE ON LINE EVENT - SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2020 - For more information please visit [www.marchforlife.co.uk/march-for-life-uk-lifest-20](http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/march-for-life-uk-lifest-20)**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR PARISH**

***God our Father, as a Parish this day we re-dedicate our whole lives to the service of your Church. With confidence, we present our heartfelt prayers to You. We ask you to bless this Parish Community, our homes, our families. Strengthen with your peace all our days. We commend ourselves to the protection of Mary, our Lady, the Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church. Through her prayers may we be preserved from all evil influences, now and at the hour of our death. This prayer we ask in the Name of Jesus who lives and reigns with you, the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.***

**We pray for the welfare and the well-being of people – ALWAYS in our thoughts and prayers –**

***Please remember in your prayers to the Lord this week the elderly, the ill, the house-bound, the sick of our Parish - all those in our hospitals – all in our nursing and residential homes - those dying in our hospices - and all those who have asked us to pray for them. May all know the Lord's Comfort and Peace – May the Lord bless all those who care for them.***

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

***My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.***

**RECONCILIATION - 5 MOVEMENTS**

**1. PRESENT ACTION:**

**What are you presently dealing with?**

**2. CRITICAL REFLECTION:**

**Why are you doing that?**

**3. THE CHRISTIAN STORY AND VISION:**  
**Hope, faith, trust, forgiveness.**

**4. LOOKING AT THE CHRISTIAN STORY:**  
**How do the Gospels challenge you?**

**5. CHOOSING A RESPONSE:**

**What changes can I make for the future?**

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***'May the strength of God pilot me.  
May the power of God preserve me.  
May the wisdom of God instruct me.  
May the hand of God protect me.  
May the way of God direct me.  
May the shield of God defend me.'***

**Amen**

**Saint Patrick**

**And all those who have died because of violence, terrorism, tragedy and the Corona Virus – and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.  
ETERNAL PEACE, GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.**

**We remember in prayer Families and Friends who miss the presence of someone they love – all those who are bereaved. May they be reassured always of the Lord's Love and Care**

**PRAYER SUPPORT ONLINE**

**<https://www.pray-as-you-go.org>**

**<https://www.sacredspace.ie><https://jesuitprayer.org>**

**<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/where-will-god-find-you-july>**

**Without the Way there is no going /Without the Truth there is no knowing /  
Without the Life there is no living.  
THOMAS A KEMPIS**

**Our Parish Community invites each person to be an active and participating member in all the aspects of Parish Life.**

I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter: I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended."

**Nelson Mandela**

**"Upon Jesus' arrival in Heaven a big number of angels greeted Him. After the formalities they asked Him whom He had left behind on Earth to finish the work that He had begun. Jesus replied "Just a small group of women and men who love Me." "Is that all?" they asked astonished, "What if this group should fail?" Jesus replied, "I have no other plans."**

**Even the lion must put up with flies!**

**The kindest word is the unkind word unsaid.**

**"I will never forget you, my people -  
I have carved you on the palm of my  
hand".**

**Isaiah 49: 15-16**

**The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain**

**DOLLY PARTON**

**"GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS ONLY SON THAT THEY MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE"**

**A Simple Prayer –  
In Jesus' Name, we continue to pray,  
In Jesus' Name, we continue to serve,  
In Jesus' Name, we continue to love,  
In Jesus Name, we continue to live.  
In Jesus' Name, we continue to listen. AMEN  
Don't Forget 6-00PM Each Day – OUR FATHER**

**We care for each other and we want to worship and to serve our Lord and one another.  
Do please consider volunteering by participating wherever you feel you can help and serve.**

**Sarah Price our Parish Secretary will be available between the hours of 11-00AM - 1-30PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.  
Any communication must be made BY email  
[olasoffice@talktalk.net](mailto:olasoffice@talktalk.net)**

St Thomas is often referred to as 'Doubting Thomas.' Yet his scepticism and uncertainty lead him to proclaim, 'My Lord and my God' (John 20:29). St John Henry Newman said: 'Ten thousand difficulties don't make one doubt.' Faith is often tested, refined and purified through the difficulties, challenges and ups and downs of life. Faith is a gift infused by the Holy Spirit so that, like St Thomas, we can pray in our hearts and confess with our tongues that God is Father, Jesus is Lord and the Holy Spirit is our Counsellor and Advocate.



I came across Dacher Keltner, a professor of psychology University of Berkeley, California who said "Touch is the fundamental language of connection," "Touch is the fundamental language of connection."

## Guidance on Re-opening of Catholic Churches for Individual Prayer

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The doors of our churches have been closed since 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, following the clear instruction from the Government. Bishops, priests and people share a deep desire to re-open our churches as soon as the Government allows us to do so. Re-opening must, of course, happen in a safe manner, and it is likely to take place in stages. Each stage will be accompanied by guidance to ensure this can happen safely and effectively.

These guidance notes are intended to assist Parish Priests to be ready to re-open their churches as soon as permission is granted. They focus on what is needed to open churches safely (i.e. providing the least possible risk of transmission of the virus) for private prayer as a first step. This guidance has been compiled with detailed public health advice and scrutiny and complies with the Principles established by Government.

### **Principles**

The Principles established by government to enable safe re-opening of churches below have been incorporated into this guidance:

- i. Protecting those at higher risk (e.g. the elderly, those extremely vulnerable and shielding or clinically vulnerable and accessing annual flu immunisation);
- ii. Enhanced cleaning of premises - more regularly and no sharing of items;
- iii. Social Distancing - including when using outdoor spaces;
- iv. Face coverings for reassurance;
- v. Hygiene (hand-washing) or hand sanitising facilities for all;
- vi. Managing children

### **What is “Individual Prayer?”**

Individual prayer within a place of worship is defined as a person or household entering the venue to pray on their own and not as part of a group, led prayer or communal act. They must be socially distanced from other individuals or households. Collective or communal prayer and regular scheduled services are not permitted at this time. This includes any minister of religion or lay person leading devotions or prayer.

### **First Steps: Preparing for safe re-opening**

Even before churches can re-open, there are some important preparations that will need to be made. In order to be ready, Parish Priests need to ensure the fundamentals of infection control are in place (which will protect those who are vulnerable) by doing the following:

1. Assembling a team of stewards to ensure that the guidance in this document can safely be put into effect. The number of volunteers required will vary depending on the size of churches, but priests will not be able to manage the re-opening of churches on their own. It is important that those in the team should not be drawn from those instructed to shield themselves, nor, as a general rule, from groups considered more vulnerable to coronavirus.
2. Securing sufficient supplies of alcohol hand gel, cleaning materials (including gloves for cleaners) and tape to mark appropriate distances on floors and to block off areas of seating. When buying supplies, it is important to ensure that hand gel with anti-viral properties is obtained, this should be at least 65% alcohol: many hand sanitisers are only anti-bacterial and offer no protection against coronavirus. Tape can be purchased online (search for ‘floor

marking tape' on Church Marketplace, Amazon etc). The Government advises that normal household disinfectant and detergents are suitable for cleaning.

3. Mark distances on the floor and block off pews/chairs to ensure adequate social distancing (2 metres/6 feet between each person) is maintained throughout the church. As an alternative to blocking off rows with tape, seating may be reconfigured if this is possible (e.g. by the removing of chairs or pews). Depending on the size of the church, it may be beneficial to use different areas of the church on different days to facilitate cleaning. The maximum person capacity at any one time under the social distancing regime must be determined and this made clear to those entering the church, preferably by way of clear signage (see 5 below).
4. Removing from the church all printed materials that are not designed for a single use. This would include service books, hymn books, CTS pamphlets etc.
5. Preparing appropriate signage, e.g. asking people to sanitise their hands, on entry and exit, not to touch or physically venerate statues or relics, clear entrance and exit signs, maximum safe capacity etc.
6. Maintaining as much ventilation within the church space as possible; keeping doors open decreases transmission risk through touching but also allows a flow of fresh air into the church space. If the church has windows that can be opened, these should be.
7. Ensure that all taps, toilets and other water storage devices are run well to flush the systems before anyone uses them, especially if the church has not been in use for some time.

### **How is the COVID-19 virus spread?**

The Government guidance states that the spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres or less) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person. Respiratory secretions (droplets) containing the virus are likely to be the most important means of transmission; these are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

### **Opening and operating safely: hand hygiene, cleaning and social distancing**

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are working with our Public Health advisors, Public Health England and the Government in order to provide clear directives for the opening of our churches safely which minimises the risk of virus transmission. Considering the above understanding of virus transmission, the proposed directives are:

1. At least two stewards must be present in the church throughout the time it is open for prayer; the stewards must ensure that hand sanitisation occurs at entry and exit points, social distancing is maintained by people in the church and if a pre-determined capacity is reached, they prevent others from entering the church. (Through, for example, a "one in, one out" policy.) People with cold or flu-like symptoms should be asked not to enter.
2. Stewards themselves should practice good hand hygiene through either regular hand washing or the use of alcohol-based hand sanitiser. They should not eat or drink or touch their face unless they have immediately washed their hands beforehand and should maintain social distance within the church. They should ensure any cuts or grazes on their hands are completely covered with waterproof dressings. They should not physically assist people

unless absolutely necessary, for example in an emergency for first aid<sup>1</sup>. In this case there are some basic steps which stewards should be aware of:

- a. Be aware of the risks to yourselves and others in helping someone.
  - b. Make sure you wash your hands and use an alcohol gel, before and after helping someone. Ensure that you do not cough or sneeze over someone when you are helping them.
  - c. Wear disposable gloves or cover hands when dealing with people and dispose of them securely.
  - d. Dispose of all waste from first aid safely in tied bags in bins.
  - e. Do not touch a wound with your bare hand.
  - f. Do not touch any part of a dressing that will come in contact with a wound.
3. It would be an additional infection control measure if people could enter and leave the church via separate doors. If this is not possible, stewards should do all they can to ensure people keep an appropriate social distance while entering and leaving church (eg by having an entrance line and an exit line).
  4. Alcohol hand gel should be provided at the doors, with notices asking people to sanitise their hands as they enter and leave the church.
  5. Places where people can sit or kneel in prayer should be two metres apart from one another in all directions. Benches should be blocked off, or seats rearranged, to facilitate this social distancing. People who are part of the same household can sit together but those not from the same household should maintain social distancing while in church.
  6. The church must be cleaned fully at least once a day, using appropriate cleaning products and paying particular attention to touch points (door handles, collection boxes etc). Areas that are likely to be touched frequently (such as door handles) should be cleaned more often<sup>2</sup>.
    - a. Cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant or detergent (including on pews) will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.
    - b. Those doing this work must wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. How these are disposed of or cleaned is important.<sup>3</sup>
    - c. The cleaning method for surfaces and touchpoints should be by using a disposable cloth or disposable paper tissues; first clean hard surfaces with detergent and water or detergent spray; **not** polish spray on its own. Pay particular attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles. Anti-viral spray cleaner which does not harm wood and other fittings is available from suppliers.
    - d. Those doing this work must practice good hygiene: wash their hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, **especially** after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on supporting people in emergency situations see the full government guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-interim-guidance-for-first-responders/interim-guidance-for-first-responders-and-others-in-close-contact-with-symptomatic-people-with-potential-2019-ncov>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on cleaning and disinfection see the full government guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

<sup>3</sup> If it is known that there has been an exposure to the virus, disposable cleaning materials should be double-bagged, then stored for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished. If not disposable, they should be washed at 60 degrees or above before re-use.

7. Toilet facilities in churches should remain closed to prevent any risk of transmission of infection. If facilities for hand washing **only** can be provided, and these can be cleaned frequently, then these can be opened to allow people to wash their hands but **only** if liquid soap can be provided and air driers or disposable paper towels are used. Cloth towels should **not** be used.
8. Only printed materials intended to be taken away from the church by the user can be made available. Hymn books, missals, devotional materials etc which may be re-used should be removed from the church.
9. Physical veneration of relics or objects such as statues, crucifixes and shrines is not permitted. There should be no holy water in church stoups. Care should be exercised when lighting candles on votive stands using existing candles as a source of ignition, not lighters, matches or tapers. For electric candle stands, clean the row of buttons frequently.

### **Face Coverings**

Government has advised that cloth face coverings (and not surgical masks) could be worn for reassurance by people in enclosed areas but are not strictly necessary. Churches do not need to supply face coverings. People should not see their voluntary use disrespectful to prayer or the sacred space.

### **Children**

While children are unlikely to become very ill, they are capable of both being infected by the virus and of spreading it. Parents or guardians bringing children into a church should not be discouraged from doing so, but it will be important for parents to manage their children appropriately, particularly ensuring they touch as few surfaces as possible for their own safety.

### **Vulnerable People**

It remains a person's own choice to come to church to pray. Churches may wish to consider setting aside a section only for people who are more vulnerable to serious disease if infected, and clearly signposted as such, or otherwise having a designated time only for people who are more vulnerable and wish to pray privately.

### **Individual prayer only**

This advice concerns only the opening of churches for private prayer. Further detailed advice will be issued in due course when public worship is safe to re-commence. This advice cannot be followed for other activities that may take place on parish premises, such as groups that would meet in church halls, **because at present these must remain closed**. This is because group gatherings at the time of writing are not permitted by law, and social distancing cannot be monitored in an effective way with groups that meet socially or for other activities in our premises.

### **The importance of these measures**

These measures may seem burdensome, or even a little daunting. They are however necessary, not least because if any churches are seen to be operating in a way that may increase the spread of the virus, there is a risk that stricter measures such as prohibition or enforced closure notices could be re-imposed by local authorities or even national administrations. It is our hope that with priests and their parishioners working effectively together, we will be able to open churches safely for private prayer, as a significant step towards the resumption of the celebration of Mass and the sacraments.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Draft Revision 6