

Extraordinary Meeting of the PPC -to discuss the possibility of opening the churches for Mass.

Father led the opening prayers.

The following items were raised-

Q-Have we the capacity to open the churches for Mass?

Everyone agreed that we could open the churches for Mass and complete the necessary paperwork.

Q-How can we organise the number wanting to come to Mass?

The Booking system provided by the diocese would prove extremely useful for the stewards and priests. People can book online or telephone for a place at Mass.

Q- What do we think about an outdoor Mass?

Everyone agreed that it would require a lot of organisation and the weather would have an impact on the Mass running smoothly. It was agreed that we put our efforts into preparing the churches for Mass.

Q- What are the guidelines for the stewards?

There are separate guidelines for Mass which include the wearing of a face mask. They would also continue to show people to their places taking into account the paperwork sent from the diocese. The paperwork will identify how many people to expect including families. The advice is that there could be separate stewards for cleaning and stewarding, each church would make their own decision depending on the number of stewards available.

Q- Have we a volunteer from each church to register online and track the places for Mass?

Jenny Cieslik volunteered for St Marys' Church and Barbara Payne for All Saints.

Q- Who will complete the relevant paperwork?

The same people who completed the opening for private prayer volunteered.

Q- Will the churches continue to open for private prayer?

It was agreed that the churches would remain open with the same opening days and times.

Q- Father Martin have you an idea of how many Masses you would like and is realistic?

Father Martin and everyone at the meeting thought it was a good idea to slowly introduce a Mass in each church and gradually increase the Masses in time.

Q- When will these Masses take place?

St Mary's Church- Mass on Sundays at 10.30am

All Saints Church- Mass on Saturdays at 6pm.

Q- Who will steward the Masses?

At All Saints B. Payne and L Doyle have volunteered

St Mary's TBA

Q- Can a steward who is on the rota receive communion?

Yes, but would need to remove their mask temporarily.

Q- Father Martin would you like a reader at Mass?

Yes, but the reader would have to sanitise their hands before and after they read without touching the microphone.

Q- What about a sacristan?

Only one person.

Q- How can we judge the distance from the priest to the parishioner when receiving communion?

There will be a small table or kneeler on the sanctuary.

Q- What is the timeframe for opening for Mass?

We are hoping to open the churches for Mass next weekend. Details will be available on the parish newsletter.

I hope this information helps, the stewards from each church will arrange a meeting when and if the Masses change and we need more stewards. There is of course an open invitation for more volunteers following safeguarding procedures etc.

Ann King

PPC secretary