



# St Peter & St Thomas More CATHOLIC PARISH

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

12 July 2020



## Resumption of public Mass in our parish in the church of St Thomas More

Since the government confirmed places of worship could reopen, we have all thought carefully how this can take place safely and, at the same time, keeping the centrality of the Eucharist foremost in our minds. The largest capacity is in the church of St Thomas More, so it is right that this is where we must now focus our energies.

We are now in a position to reopen the church, and I am grateful to the stewards, many of whom that have built on their experience of overseeing private prayer in St Peter's church over the last few weeks., for their support. Without them, our churches would be shut.

The bishops of England and Wales have suspended the Sunday obligation to attend Mass for Catholics; therefore, you are requested to *seriously consider attending another weekday Mass other than the weekend Masses*. You can see from the Mass times (to be reviewed after a week or two) that we are providing Mass times in the early morning or evenings. There are three morning Masses and three early evening Masses. Between each of the Masses, the church will be deeply cleaned and prepared. On the days when the church is closed, even deeper cleaning and preparation will take place in line with government and church guidance.

This key guidance is well presented in the accompanying chart (on the last page) which clearly sets out what may and may not take place, as well as the liturgical practices that will be different for the time being. Please read it very carefully. It is important we try to manage your expectations. When the capacity of the church is reached, nobody else may be admitted. Please do not be offended. It is for everyone's safety!

For the time being, the liturgical ministries of lector and Extra-ordinary Ministers of The Eucharist are suspended in our parish, but I am grateful to those who were happy to continue. Nor will we have altar servers for the time being. I hope to reintroduce the Sacrament of Reconciliation in due course.

A reminder that private prayer continues in St Peter's church (details on page 2).

### Mass times - St Thomas More

#### Week of Monday 13 July

| Monday | Tuesday | Wed | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday      |
|--------|---------|-----|----------|--------|----------|-------------|
| X      | 9am     | 9am | 6pm      | X      | 6pm      | 10am<br>6pm |

Dear Parishioners...

I would like to thank those who deep cleaned the church on Monday and did a marvelous job. I would also like to thank the stewards who met with me on Saturday morning to discuss the opening of St Thomas More church for Masses. Thanks to their generosity, we will now be able to open for Masses again beginning this Tuesday as highlighted in this newsletter.

Please read the guidance which has been provided by the diocese on the back page of the newsletter this weekend.

I would like to ask those of you who can, to share the times of the Masses with those who may not have access to the internet; a little act of kindness that will help make them feel included and not excluded. Those in wheelchairs will be able to be accommodated in the area near the baptistry, adjacent to the in font.

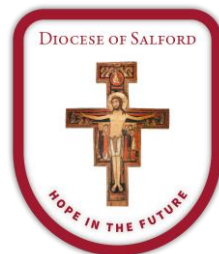
Let us heed the words of St John Paul, 'Don't be afraid'.

God Bless!

Father Peter

## Hope in the Future Stage 3

As part of Hope in the Future Stage 3, we have been reflecting on our parish liturgies. Our final pastoral message from bishop John and the worksheet focusses on the concluding rites of the Mass and being sent out on Mission. You may wish to discuss this as a family or reflect individually on what it means to you. You can read the worksheet by clicking [here](#) and print it out if you wish.



**Pray for the Sick**

Brian Welsby, Clare Hadlow, Maureen Slattery, Laura Sousa, Neville and Veronica Hargreaves, Christine Cowen, Roy Smethurst, Pauline Roberts, Fiona Jones, Maureen and Tony Stephenson, Bernadette McQuade, Winifred Hannelly, Carmel Donohue, Ann Drogan, Baby Francesca Anne, Bob and Pat Knowles, G Brazier, Pauline Tarpey, George Godwin, Bernadette Greer, Marie Oates, Irene Sergent, Raymond Howard, Colette Ogden, Denis Bardsley, Ellen Whiteside, Michael Butler, Beth Scott, Iris Johnson, Robert Pole, Kevin Newton, Anne Murphy, Sylvia Hornby, Vincent Quinn, Michael Anthony Sullivan, Paul Greer, John Cummings

**Those who have died recently**

Michael Gallagher, David Lynch, Imelda O'Hanlon, Des Pearson, Shiela Welsby, Fr Arthur Nearey

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Masses**

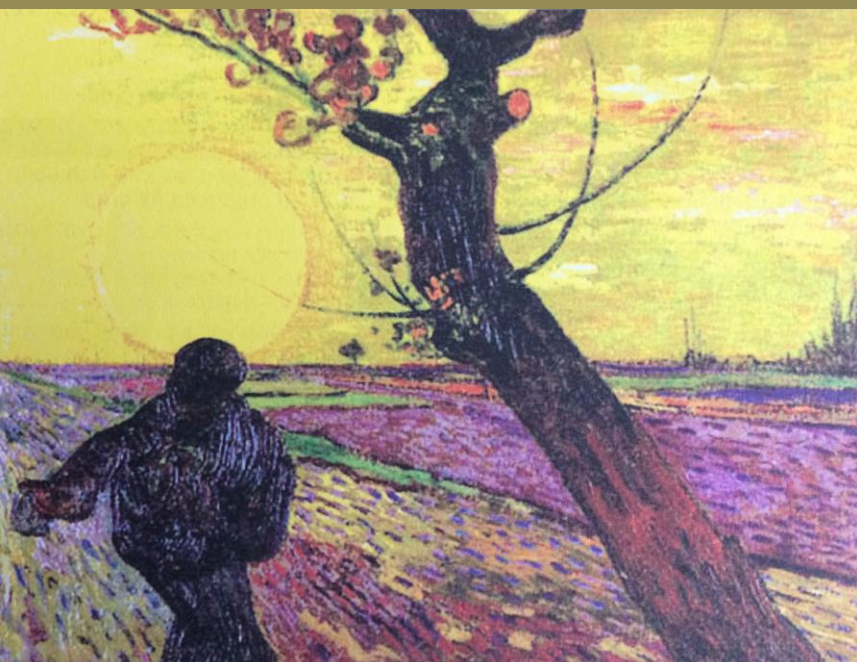
Eileen Needle RIP, Carl McKenzie RIP, Joan Peters, Peter Williams, Josie O'Neill, James and Agnes Sanders, Sick and housebound, People of the parish, Safe delivery of a much loved grandson, Fr James Tubman

**The Sanctuary Lamp in St Peters**

The Ingle Family

**An 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 to You  
 Never permit me to be separated from You  
 Amen



The sick list will be updated in a few weeks' time. If you would like anyone to **remain** on the list, please let us know. If you wish to **add to the sick list**, similarly please contact us. The current list will be removed in a fortnight. Thank you.

**Finance update – online donations**

Please remember you can make donation directly from the parish website (address at the bottom on page 1 of the newsletter). The Gift Aid arrangements will shortly be added for those of you who may wish to set up a Standing Order. This is a direct link to the donation page. [Click here](#)

**Private prayer in St Peter's church**

- ❖ Please follow their instructions of the stewards
- ❖ You must use the one-way system: The Great Door to enter and the back door to leave, save those who are disabled who may use the side door to both enter and exit; there is no access to the bathroom
- ❖ You will be directed to a place to sit which will be socially distanced from others
- ❖ You are reminded that the Blessed Sacrament will be present in the tabernacle and that holy water is not available at the present time

| St Peter's church opening times<br>Week of Monday 13 July 2020 |                 |            |                 |            |
|--|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Monday   | Tuesday         | Wed        | Thursday        | Friday     |
| 1pm to 3pm   | 10am to 12 noon | 1pm to 3pm | 10am to 12 noon | 1pm to 3pm |

**A reflection on this week's gospel...**

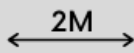
How recently and how often have you asked, 'Why doesn't everybody else see things the way I do? I mean it's so obvious? What's the matter with these people?' That common human experience is behind today's gospel. The earliest Christians wondered why so many, including some of their relatives and friends, just didn't 'get it' about Jesus. Their answer is, frankly, not very satisfying to us 'open-minded' people. We expect everybody to have an equal chance to enjoy everything good. But Jesus seems to acquiesce to an arbitrary division between those who understand and accept his teaching, and those who reject it. No satisfactory explanation is given, nor does Jesus seem to think explanation is required. Perhaps in those days, it is possible that only a few or none believed in personal responsibility for religious choices, so they didn't expect God to grant people equal opportunity. There are gospel passages where our Lord is quite clear about our responsibility and response to him.

More important is the last sentence of the gospel, where the yield of some of the seed is a hundredfold, or sixtyfold, or at least thirtyfold. These were astonishing figures when our Lord spoke them, for in those days a yield of sevenfold was considered a bumper crop! The meaning is that the believer who 'hears the word and understands it' enjoys and shares a yield of grace incomprehensibly rich, beyond anything the believer could account for on his or her own merits!



Guidelines for the resumption of public Mass in the church of St Thomas More  
in the Parish of St Peter and St Thomas More, Middleton and Alkington

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS



Keep two metres distance between people at all times.



Stewards will be placed on the door to manage the flow of people in and out.



Numbers will be limited based on capacity, with social distancing in mind.



Face masks are not compulsory but stewards may wear one when dealing with people.



You may be required to leave your name and contact details with stewards for Test and Trace.



Please use provided hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church. The church will be cleaned between Masses.

### LITURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS



Please avoid all physical contact with fellow parishioners. The Sign of Peace will not take place.



Congregational singing will not take place. No wind instruments or pipe organs are to be used and recorded music is suggested.



There will be no offertory collection. Donations will be accepted in one specific place, but direct debit is encouraged.



No offertory procession will take place. The gifts will be brought from the credence table.



The Priest will wash his own hands at the Lavabo.



There will be no Hymn books or shared materials. Readers will be encouraged not to touch to Lectionary. Parishioners can bring their own Missals.

### COMMUNION



A one-way system will be marked to maintain the 2m distance during Communion.



Only the priest should consume the celebrant's host.



Except during Communion, the priest should not wear a mask.



The precious blood will not be distributed at this time.



Hands must be sanitised both before and after distributing Communion.



Communion should be taken in the hand while standing. People should be guided by the stewards, including when leaving the church.

If you have any symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

#### Important Information when coming to Mass

- ❖ Enter through the front doors; please do not use the side doors
- ❖ Wheelchair users may use any door and sit in the baptistry
- ❖ You will be greeted by a steward; they will keep you safe and tell you where to sit
- ❖ There are no 'reserved places' and you will not be able to sit where you usually sit
- ❖ You will be only be allowed in the church 20 minutes before Mass begins; this means, regardless of the weather, you may have to wait outside, socially distancing from others at all times
- ❖ 'Bubble groups' (those living in the same household) may sit together, but you may be asked to sit apart
- ❖ Nobody may enter the church once Mass begins
- ❖ External doors will be fully open, so consider what clothes you wear in case you are too warm/cold

#### Inside the church

- ❖ Remain silent, so that the stewards may be easily heard (they will be wearing masks)
- ❖ The bathroom is closed
- ❖ The piety shop is closed
- ❖ You may not speak to the priest in the sacristy
- ❖ If you wish to contribute to the collection, place your offering in the baskets provided
- ❖ You are asked to stay seated in your place
- ❖ Mass books etc are not available
- ❖ Family benches (very limited) will seat 3 or more people together from the same 'bubble group'

#### Holy Communion and exiting from the church

- ❖ After the Angus Dei (Lamb of God), the priest will say, "The Body [Blood] of Christ", to which all will respond, "Amen"
- ❖ You may not receive the Eucharist until after the final blessing at the end of the Mass
- ❖ You will be invited to come forward after the final blessing, as directed only by the steward
- ❖ The priest will not say, "The Body of Christ", nor will you need to respond, "Amen", as you will have already collectively done so
- ❖ The Eucharist will only be received in the outstretched hand, socially distancing as much as possible
- ❖ Then leave the church immediately through the side door as directed