

# St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles

27/28 June 2020

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
 St John Southworth  
 Priest & Martyr

Pope Francis

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
 Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles

For a cure/vaccine for the virus

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Joseph Gerard d'Inverno  
 (Birthday Intention)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Joe Lee RIP

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
 Dedication of the Cathedral

Chris Taylor (sick)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Fred Pereira RIP (recent)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
 St Thomas, Apostle

Special Intention

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Helen Healy RIP

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

People of the parish

## Statement from Cardinal Vincent Nichols about reopening of churches for collective acts of worship from 4 July

I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister earlier today, that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England. I thank all who have worked hard to bring this about, not least my fellow religious leaders.

As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4 July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith. It is important that we continue to abide by the guidance, given by the Government, on appropriate social distancing and the other measures to avoid all unnecessary risk. Our own detailed guidance will be distributed around dioceses and parishes so everyone can be confident that they may come to Mass securely and understand the part they are to play in protecting each other from any remaining risk of infection. The past few months have been a time of fashioning new patterns of prayer, new ways of exploring and enriching our faith and vigorous ways of reaching out to those in need. We can build on these, forgetting nothing of the graces we have been given. Yet now, with the experience of opening our churches for individual prayer already gained, this return to the more normal patterns of worship will be of great importance to all Catholics. This time of our 'Eucharistic fast' has made our hearts grow in longing for that moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is now very near and for that we thank God.

## The Solemnity Of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

One was more or less a University Don, a rabbinic scholar, a convert to the faith, a fearless preacher and a relentless missionary covering vast distances. The other was a rock solid faithful follower to whom Jesus gave authority to speak truth and to build the Church. Two great saints: this weekend we rejoice in their place as 'foundation personalities'. Neither was called because of their doctorates or perfection. Peter had his moments of crisis. Paul knew only too well his own weakness. Both placed their total faith in the Cross and their Risen Lord. They had a stand-up row about Jewish converts to Christianity. Saint Peter and Saint Paul were different men but totally united in their conviction and courage. This weekend we ask, in a particular way, for their intercession. We always

remember that asking for the 'intercession of the saints' is a strong part of our Catholic tradition. Since the beginning of the pandemic crisis - Father Michael has been making strong daily intercession to Our Lady and Saint Pope John Paul II. Each of us can add our own special saints and devotions.

### **Church Opening Arrangements on Saturdays and Sundays**

The Church is now open **on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am and 1pm, for Private Prayer.**

Those who wish to visit should be aware of the safety measures in place which are:

- Only 9 people are allowed in the Church at any one time,
- Safe distancing is expected to be observed at all times,
- Controlled one-way traffic flow in place, with most of the Church cordoned off,
- Designated pews and positions at the back of the Church are set out for individual prayer,
- Side Altars closed, with the statues of The Blessed Heart and Our Lady moved to the main Altar,
- Toilet facility out of use,
- Clear signage and directions in place,
- Hand sanitizers are sited at the Entrance and Exit from the Church for personal use.

Volunteer Marshals are in attendance to assist and direct Attendees to the designated pews and to ensure that the safety measures are adhered to. Please follow their directions and instructions, including using the hand sanitisers on entry and exit. A small selection of cards (Mass Cards and Sympathy Cards) from the Repository is available in the Porch for purchase with payment by cash only.

### **Reopening of the Church for Mass in July**

The Government announced last Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June a further relaxation of the Lockdown measures to allow for Public Worship - Masses and other services from the beginning of July. Guidelines are expected from the Diocese giving details on the permitted congregation numbers and other specific requirements, such as the **safe** distribution of Holy Communion and the recording of the names and contact numbers of the congregation, to meet the Government's Test and Trace requirement.

It is also expected that measures will need to be in place covering traffic flow, seating allocation and cleaning of the Church between services. We will therefore need to strengthen in numbers our current Marshal Volunteers, and to look carefully at the cleaning regime needed. Further Volunteers are therefore required – please leave your name and contact number by email on [stanmore@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stanmore@rcdow.org.uk) or in a note left at the Presbytery if you are able to assist. Over the next few weeks, we will be undertaking the safety preparatory work necessary to enable Masses to resume. The intention is to open the Church for Mass in Mid-July. Further details of the arrangements together with the actual dates of Mass will be published in next week's Newsletter.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Tony Murphy, Finance Committee / Property & Safety Matters

### **Main points from Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England**

The Government has announced that, from 4th July, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. Our lives have been changed by the pandemic and we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A number of churches may remain closed as they cannot meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for opening after 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation. There will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass. This will be determined locally in line with social distancing requirements. We need to reflect on how and when we might attend Mass. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal.' Every Catholic is asked to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Given there is no Sunday obligation, attending Mass on a weekday will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people. There will be differences in how the celebration takes place. For now, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. Everyone is asked to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church. The full message from the Archbishops is available on the website.