

The Newsletter of the parishes of



St. Alban at Pelaw



St. Patrick at Felling



Our School

www.stalbansgateshead.org

A community of faith
serving the Church
in the Partnership
of Blessed John Ingram

St. Patrick's Presbytery
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22nd Sunday of the Year, 30th August, 2020



Dear Parishioners

As many of you will already be aware, St. Patrick's Church was risk assessed by the Diocese on Wednesday, 19th August, the result of which led to Bishop Robert giving us permission to begin the process of a phased reopening. I am sure many of us will be delighted to hear this news.

A team of nineteen parishioners came along last Monday evening to deep clean and sanitise the Church to ensure the hygiene requirements specified for a Covid-19 secure environment were fulfilled. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers for their tireless efforts.

On Friday evening and Saturday morning there were two training sessions for those parishioners who have volunteered to act as stewards. Their role is to make you feel welcome and safe when you choose to return to Church and to ensure the Government guidelines are being followed. As you are aware, without stewards, no Church can open. I am grateful to them for their support and advice.

Let us once again recall these words of our Metropolitan Archbishop Malcolm McMahon: "As we begin to return to Mass we have to provide guidelines to ensure a safe and reverent environment. We all have a role to play in keeping each other safe and healthy. **We are not going back to normal. It is not going back to what it was like before March. We have to think differently.**" We must all take his words to heart.

To maintain social distancing there will be a maximum of 70 people allowed in St. Patrick's Church at any one time for a *parish Mass*. Any other services which we may be able to accommodate in the future, subject to the availability of stewards, will be limited to the current Government restrictions of a maximum of 30 people.

Thanks to the agreement of our volunteer stewards, St. Patrick's Church will be open for the celebration of Mass on Tuesday, 1st September at 10.00 and on Thursday evening, 3rd September at 18.30. The Church will open 20 minutes before each Mass. Please do not arrive any earlier. There will be no need to book a place. Please bring a face covering and your Test and Trace details.

We hope to be open for Mass the following week on Tuesday, 8th September and Thursday evening, 10th September, if all proceeds as planned.

We are taking small steps to adjust to the new protocols which are in place for our safety, health and well-being.

Please continue to look after and pray for one another and please pray for me. May God bless you all.

Fr. Patterson.

Mass to view on line

Mass is live streamed from our Cathedral on Sunday at 11.30 and on weekdays at 12.05. These services may be viewed live or anytime later at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC12EvW0Eqg-cFTh5i2y_EQw

Alternatively, you may like to follow daily Mass from the Holy Name, Jesmond celebrated live at 10.00 and which may also be viewed any time later at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnVss0mkVR2GKS5VPJOEsDA>

Mass Intentions

With the exception of Tuesday and Thursday, when there is a public Mass in St. Patrick's Church, I will continue to celebrate Mass privately. These Intentions will be remembered this week.

Monday: Lucy Rowlands

Wednesday: Peter Sloan

Friday: William Pearson

Sunday: For the intentions of all our parishioners

Tuesday 10.00 in Church: The Parishioners of St. Alban's and St. Patrick's

Thursday 18.30 in Church: The sick, their families, NHS staff & Care Workers

Saturday: Fr. "P's" Intentions

When you are unable to celebrate Mass with me, you may wish to make this act of spiritual communion:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now 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.

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- all our parishioners who are sick, housebound or in hospital
- and all those near and dear to us whose memories we cherish at this time especially William Pearson

Your generous Offerings are greatly appreciated

Fr. Patterson continues to be so grateful to those parishioners who, in these financially challenging times, are able to make their weekly offering by bank transfer directly into the parish accounts and to those who have sent cheques.

He is also appreciative of those parishioners who have dropped their weekly offering envelopes through the presbytery letterbox. This all helps to meet our day to day financial commitments.

For security reasons, please do not put any envelopes through St. Alban's Presbytery door. Envelopes for St. Alban's parish should be posted through St. Patrick's Presbytery door only.

If you Gift Aid your offertory contributions, the parish can reclaim the tax on your offering should you wish to make a bank transfer. It would be helpful to enter your name and Gift Aid envelope number as the reference when making the transfer.

If you choose to send a cheque please make it payable to the appropriate Account name below or you might wish to continue to put aside your envelopes each week and bring them along to church once we can reopen our doors.

The details for bank transfers and cheques are as follows:-

For St. Alban's HSBC Bank

Account name: DHN Pelaw St Alban

Sort code: 40-34-18

Account No: 92010984

For St. Patrick's HSBC Bank

Account name: DHN Felling St Patrick

Sort code: 40-34-18

Account No: 52010453

Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's Church

We are unable to offer a Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's at present, but when we are ready, we will be adopting the Diocesan Policy of introducing a Telephone booking system for you to reserve a place to ensure our maximum capacity is not exceeded and that we do not have to turn anyone away. It will be a dedicated telephone number and will only be available at certain times.

More information will be available in the Newsletter next weekend.

A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life, be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch. In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and in their tears. Amen.

Are you thinking of coming to Church this week?

Please bring a face covering, your name and telephone number in an envelope for Test and Trace purposes and read the document attached to this Newsletter advising you of what to expect when you arrive at Church.

Should I come to church?

If you have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable you are very susceptible to an adverse reaction to Covid-19 and you would have been advised to take extra precautions during the peak of the pandemic in England. This is known as 'shielding'. The government is advising that you do not need to shield at the moment, because the rates of transmission of the coronavirus in the community have fallen significantly, although they are now on the increase in some parts of our country. If you are in this category, you should still try to keep your overall social interactions low. Please read HM Government Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from Covid-19 at the reference below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Some people, including those aged 70 and over, are described as being clinically vulnerable, meaning that they are at a higher risk of severe illness from the coronavirus. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household.

If you fall into either of these categories, or if you feel unsure about returning to Mass, you need to consider the wisdom of doing so. Please remember, you are not obliged to attend Mass. Sunday obligation is suspended.

Needless to say, if you are feeling unwell or if you suspect that you have Covid-19, (high temperature, new persistent cough, lack of taste or smell) or if you are living with someone who has or is suspected of having Covid-19, you **MUST** self-isolate in accordance with HM Government guidance and contact the online 111 service to arrange for testing. **You must not come to Church.**

It is also important to note, that while we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities to ensure our Church is Covid-19 safe, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting Covid-19 any time they enter a public space, since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.