

## Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

(transferred from 29<sup>th</sup> June this year)

Things are beginning to move forward.

As from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Sacred Heart church, Colne, will be open for **PRIVATE PRAYER** only.

But things are moving quickly. We have an 'amber' light for having Mass and other services with small congregations. However, until we have more information and know the requirements we have to fulfil, we do not have any further information or a date when this will begin. I don't think the 'green' light will be far off, please God.

First of all I want to say thank you to the people who have responded to the requests we made for volunteers to make it possible for the church to open for private prayer. There has been a lot of organisation, paperwork, forms to fill in and even an 'inspection' from the diocese in order for us to be ready. Many thanks to those involved in the organisation and to those who will open the church and be available as stewards when the church is open. Thanks also to the team who have been in to clean the church thoroughly. It certainly smells lovely and fresh and this morning's sunshine streaming through the windows made it a lovely place to be. So thank you to everyone who has helped.

The times that Sacred Heart will be open for private prayer are currently as follows:

Monday:	2.00pm – 3.30pm	---
Tuesday:	2.00pm – 3.30pm	6.30pm – 8.00pm
Wednesday:	2.00pm – 3.30pm	6.30pm – 8.00pm
Thursday:	(cleaning)	6.30pm – 8.00pm
Friday:	2.00pm – 3.30pm	---
Saturday:	2.00pm – 3.30pm	---
Sunday:	---	6.30pm – 8.00pm

Please note that when the church is open for private prayer it is important that conversations do not take place in church. It is understandable that people who haven't seen each other for some time might want to catch up, but two people talking can easily become three and then that becomes a meeting and not private prayer. Also, if people have waited for weeks to be able to prayer undisturbed in church, it should not happen that they have to listen to people catching up. Remember a whisper that you cannot quite hear can be more distracting than a conversation. By all means speak to people, but outside, either before or after going into church.

Also, it is a requirement of us opening the church that we do not have toilet facilities available. The stewards already have the job of sanitising areas where people have been. They are not there to sanitise everything in the toilet area that someone might have touched. So the toilet will not be available.

To ensure social distancing which in church will remain at 2 meters, there are socially distanced spots around the church where you are asked to sit. They are marked by a small metal cross on the bench in front of the seat. By using one of these 16 places, you will ensure that you are socially distanced from others and the stewards know precisely where to wipe down when you leave.

By definition, private prayer is private, individual and silent.

If you want some inspiration for spending your time in private prayer, either in church, at home or elsewhere, there are lots of resources on the internet and there is no problem with bringing a phone or a tablet into church to assist with prayer or scripture reading etc. However, please don't use it for calls, texting or emails while in church. Leave God to do the communicating – undisturbed!

A website you might find useful is <https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com>

If you wish to light a candle, votive lights are available at the front of church. Please pick one up and place it on the stand after lighting it from a lit candle, or request a steward to light it for you if you have no lighter. This is to reduce the number of items that people might touch which others will touch after them.

Finally, there is a one way system to avoid walking past someone within the 2 meters. Please enter the church through the usual door and up the centre aisle. Turn right or left to enter a bench. Please leave by going directly from your place to the nearest side aisle. If this is on the left side of the church, then please walk to the front, across the top and down the other side aisle to leave by the side exit. If you sit on the right, please exit by going to the right side aisle and then to the exit at the back of the church which is the side door directly onto Queen Street.

But don't let all this put you off. It will all make sense when you arrive and there will be a couple of friendly stewards to assist with any problems or confusion.

[Resources from the Diocese](#)

## **Phased Reopening of Churches for Private Prayer**

We are continuing to update the page listing with which churches around the diocese have been able to begin opening for private prayer.

The page contains a helpful short video you may wish to share with parishioners, opening times for those churches currently open and a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions.

The link below will take you directly to the page:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/covid19/private-prayer-opening/>

## **Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home**

If you would like to say the prayers along with the livestream of Mass, the Lord's Day at Home resource can help you. This week's Lord's Day at Home prayer document will be [uploaded to this page](#) by the end of today (24/06/20)

## **World Day of Prayer Volunteer Vacancy**

We have been asked to share this volunteering opportunity.

The NBCW are seeking a volunteer Catholic Representative for the World Day of Prayer

(formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) which is the largest ecumenical, global women-led movement.

**Volunteer position** – travel expenses paid (and accommodation where necessary)

**Applicants** – any Catholic woman over 18 years, but would best suit retired person or someone with flexible working hours.

**Meetings** – 4-5 one day meetings in London + a 3 day residential in November, to prepare the materials for the following year's World Day of Prayer.

**Preparation Days** – members assist at training days or half days arranged by local branches across the country. Averages 4 days attendance between September and February.

**Qualifications** - Enthusiasm and commitment (specialist skills always welcome but not required)

**Appointment** - The Catholic Representative on the WDP National Committee is appointed by the Cardinal on the recommendation and also sits on the National Board of Catholic Women(NBCW). The representative makes a written report to the Board 3 times a year, and attends NBCW meetings if possible.

**Please respond by the closing date 29 July 2020. Thank you**

*If interested please contact Siobhan Canham, the current Catholic Representative, for an informal chat. Tel: 01395 227720 Mob: 07517 868 191 email: [sgcanham@aol.com](mailto:sgcanham@aol.com)*