

## Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parishioners and friends of the Good Shepherd Parish,

Father Gerard and I have decided to begin weekday Masses with a congregation on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Masses at Sacred Heart will be on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday that week. There will also be three Masses in Nelson at Christ Church, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The following week we will add the other two weekdays at Sacred Heart and Wednesday at Holy Saviour's. At this stage I can say that I am persuaded that the easiest arrangement will be not to have a "booking system" for places, but to open and see how it goes. Before we can start at Holy Saviour's, we will need volunteers to give the church an initial thorough clean and then we will need two stewards for Mass and volunteers to wipe down the places where people have been after the Mass.

**IMPORTANT** If you decide to come for Mass at Sacred Heart, please come in good time. Only thirty people will be allowed in, so please be aware that if that number is already in church, you will be informed that there is no more room and you will not be admitted on that day. If this system does not work, we will try another one. Experience elsewhere suggests that numbers will be low for a variety of reasons and therefore there is no point in trying to make things too complicated with a booking system.

Here is a list of the Masses in the week after next (20<sup>th</sup> July onwards).

**Sacred Heart:** 10.00am Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

**Christ Church:** 10.00am, Tuesday 9.00am Thursday 10.00am Friday.

**Holy Saviour:** not this week.

Last week I suggested a couple of videos which might stimulate thought about the true but hidden nature of Holy Mass. The Veil Removed reminds us of **three essential truths**. These three truths are ancient truths of Faith which we share with the Orthodox Churches and are our main distinguishing marks in contrast to the 'Protestant Churches'. They are:

- i) **The priest is truly "in persona Christi"**. This can literally be translated as "in the person of Christ". In fact, its meaning is not quite that. It does not mean that the priest becomes the person of Christ. It means that because the priest is doing what he does, therefore Christ is doing it. The priest is able to effect this extraordinary happening because of his Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.
- ii) The celebration of Holy Mass enables us to transcend time and to be present with Jesus Christ as he experiences the Paschal Mystery. In other words, **we are mysteriously truly present at the Last Supper, the Passion and Death of Jesus and His Resurrection**. These events are not repeated, but they transcend time and are REAL in eternity, and we are made present at them.
- iii) When we celebrate Holy Mass **we are also united with the eternal liturgy of heaven**. We offer, or rather Jesus Christ offers (for us who take part and for everyone) Himself as a sacrificial victim to the Father, which is precisely the eternal liturgy of heaven, where the "Lamb that was slain" enters the presence of the Father in glory and becomes the perfect and eternal worship, the Sacrifice

which takes away our sins. The book of revelation expresses this in very expressive language and imagery.

[The Veil Removed](#)

[Bishop Barron on the Real Presence](#)

God bless,  
Fr. Peter

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

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