

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 19th July 2020

Dear parishioners and friends,

Sadly, our hopes for a continued easing of the current restrictions have taken a backward turn this week. As a result of this morning's instructions from Pendle Council, Fr. Gerard and myself have discussed the situation and have decided to delay starting Sunday Mass with a congregation until the picture becomes clearer.

Weekday Masses will begin this Monday at Sacred Heart. We will initially open the church to the first 30 people to arrive for Mass and if more arrive they will be informed that we sadly cannot admit any more people.

Following the instruction that people in the Pendle region have to cover their mouths and noses in enclosed spaces, we will also ask you to comply with that instruction. It is a matter of charity and respect for the health and wellbeing of others more than an instruction from the council that we all comply. This will apply to all Masses, funerals and weddings, which are the only services currently available.

Since the church will be open for Mass, there is not the same necessity for it to be open for private prayer, and so the private prayer times will be reduced to three evenings, Sunday, Monday and Thursday from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. The timetable for the coming week is listed below. Please note that because of the funeral on Wednesday and the wedding on Thursday, there will not be 10.00am Masses on those days.

For Mass, please follow the guidance of the steward who will greet you at the church door. We will ask you to fill available spaces from the front of the church, to avoid passing by people. The bishops have suggested that you sit or stand during Mass, but do not kneel. This reduces possible infection points and assists social distancing. Holy Communion will not be distributed during the Mass, but afterwards. If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion please leave when the priest leaves the sanctuary at the end of Mass.

The priest will then take off his chasuble, wash his hands, put on a face covering and return to the sanctuary. One of the stewards will invite you to come from your bench to receive Holy Communion one at a time. To receive Holy Communion, please extend your arms as fully as you can towards the priest with your palms as flat as you can. The priest will also stand away from you and extend his arm to place the Sacred Host on your hand. Please allow the priest to withdraw his hand before making any movement to receive Holy Communion. This should avoid any contact. After you have received Holy Communion, please quietly and reverently make your prayer of thanksgiving as you leave the church by the clearest route, without returning to your bench. You will be reminded of these instructions at Mass. We might not get everything right, but we will try our best to do things in an orderly manner and as safely as possible.

In the light of the changing situation, plans for Holy Saviour's return to use have been delayed and may change again depending on how the local situation develops. At the moment we are hoping to have the first Mass there on the 29th July.

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 Sunday's Lord's Day at Home prayer [document can be found by clicking here.](#)

Sacred Heart Church, this week, commencing 19th July 2020:

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| Sunday: | 9.30am Mass 6.30pm – 8.00pm | no congregation Private Prayer |
| Monday: | 10.00am Mass 6.30pm – 8.00pm | (limit of 30 people) Private Prayer |
| Tuesday: | 10.00am Mass | (limit of 30 people) |
| Wednesday: | 10.30am Requiem Mass Michael McIlroy RIP | (no places available) |
| Thursday: | 12.30pm Wedding Service Jenifer Townson and Krishan Sethi 6.30pm – 8.00pm | (no places available) Private Prayer |
| Friday: | 10.00am Mass | (limit of 30 people) |
| Saturday: | 10.00am Mass | (limit of 30 people) |
| Sunday: | 9.30am Mass | no congregation |

If we experience a problem with more than 30 arriving for Mass, we will introduce a booking system for next week.

Thank you for your co-operation in these difficult times.

Fr. Peter