

St Hugh's church reopening

As you may have heard, we have received permission to open the church for public Masses from Sunday 4th July.

Please be patient with us, we have never done this before so we are feeling our way and there may be some errors to smooth out. If we are careful there should be room for everybody at the Masses, but please don't turn up without booking.

So here is what you need to know about coming back to St Hugh's.

Social distancing and keeping everyone safe.

- **Everyone will have to book a place at Mass** (see below for details) so that we can ensure that there is proper social distancing, which is exactly 1.5mtrs in our church. You can book online through the parish website, or by ringing the parish office 0161 973 1694 between 10am and 3.00pm on weekdays.
- The church is marked out for social distancing and places are therefore limited. You may only sit where the steward shows you. There are family benches and some spaces reserved for wheelchair users and the disabled or elderly.
- Masks must be worn at all times. Please bring your own. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance, please use it.
- **Children:** As we are applying the 1m+ social distancing rule, the face covering requirement will include all children with the exception of those children under two (2) years of age.
- There's a one-way system through the church to minimize contact, so you come in through the main entrance and out by one of the doors by the tabernacle or the organ depending on which side you are sitting. Please don't try to go out through the main entrance.
- The church will be cleaned after every service as it is now.
- **If you are over 70 or shielding**, please think very carefully about your situation. You may wish to decide to come to weekday masses as they are likely to be less busy than the Sunday Masses, so that may be a better option for you.

The Masses and services

- Weekday Masses are at 9.30, and there is a Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.30pm plus three Sunday Masses at 8.30am, 12.00 noon and 6.00pm. Holy hour will resume on Wednesday 7-8pm. All services are open to the public (but please read the note about shielding).
- **Reconciliation** will be offered by Fr Tomasz after the Saturday morning Mass, and by Fr Pat before the Saturday Vigil. This won't be in the confessional, but in the courtyard or porch area of the parish hall depending on the weather. Reconciliation can be arranged at other times by ringing them on the numbers at the top of the newsletter.
- The duration of the Mass will be approximately 30 minutes, and there will be no singing.
- Communion will be distributed AFTER the final blessing, into the hand only, by Fr Tomasz and a eucharistic minister who will sanitise their hands immediately before distribution. Instead of going back to your seat afterwards, you must leave the church by the nearest exit as indicated by the steward.

- The stewards will light votive candles for you if you like. Unfortunately to avoid cross-contamination you can't light them yourselves. There's a little box on the votive stand for donations.
- There won't be a regular collection, but there will be baskets at the exits on the way out for any donation you care to make.
- There will be no access to the toilet in the church.

Booking your place

- **You can book online** through the parish website. There is no charge for booking on your mobile. There is no need to download a ticket, as the report will show who has booked a place.
- **If you don't have internet access**, please ring the office on 0161 973 1694 and leave us a message with your name, telephone number, preferred Mass and how many seats you want (if you are a family). If you're booking for other people, please make it clear to the stewards on arrival if they are family or in a social bubble with you so that we can seat you accordingly. Office hours for booking are between 10.00 and 3.00pm. If you can't ring during that time, leave a message and we will get back to you.
- **Traceability:** The online booking system will retain names, telephone numbers and addresses in accordance with data privacy rules because if an outbreak of Coronavirus does happen, the authorities will need to be able to trace everyone who was in the church.

The Sunday exemption is still in place, so please consider attending a weekday Mass rather than a Sunday one, to spread the load a little.

Thank you all for reading this, and we look forward to seeing you at St Hugh's very soon.