

# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Sunday 28 June 2020 (Year A) | THIRTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

## THIS WEEK

SUN ✠ ● SOLEMNITY | Ss PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Private Mass *William Doody RIP*

Private Mass *People of the Parish*

MON ● FERIA

Private Mass *Eileen Witham RIP (Anniv.)*

Private Mass *Frs John and Jonathan Int's*

TUE ● MEMORIAL | THE FIRST MARTYRS OF THE SEE OF ROME

Private Mass *Fr James M. P. McCarthy RIP*

Private Mass *Barry and Christine Dickinson Int's*

WED ● MEMORIAL | ST OLIVER PLUNKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

Private Mass *Peter Davies Int's*

Private Mass *Canon Eddie Matthews RIP*

THURS ● FERIA

Private Mass *Margret Kirk Int's*

Private Mass *Deceased members of the Tunney family RIP*

FRI 🐟 ● FEAST | ST THOMAS, APOSTLE

Private Mass *Private Intention*

Private Mass *Richard Watling RIP*

SAT ● MEMORIAL | THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

✠ ● FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

6.00pm St Philip Neri **Mass** (ticket only) *Jeremiah D'Arcy RIP*

SUN 9.00am St Philip Neri **Mass** (ticket only) *People of the Parish*

11.00am St Philip Neri **Mass** (ticket only) *Joe Holmes RIP (Anniv.)*

5.00pm St Philip Neri **Mass** (ticket only) *Ann Higgins RIP*

## PRIVATE PRAYER & CONFESSION

Days and times of private prayer 28 June to 4 July, Confession is available in the garden during any of these times, weather permitting:

SUN	9.00am	-	12.00 noon
TUES	6.00pm	-	7.00pm
WED	12 noon	-	1.00pm
FRI	12 noon	-	1.00pm
SAT	10.00am	-	11.30am

## TICKETED MASSES

Beginning with a 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 4 July we will be celebrating public Mass in a socially distanced manner at St Philip Neri. To begin with we will be limiting attendance to 40 people, and **you must book in advance**. You can now book for Mass by visiting [www.stphilipmansfield.com](http://www.stphilipmansfield.com).

Please help our less computer able friends and relatives to book their places.

## PARISH UPDATE

This Sunday marks the 100th day since the celebration of public Mass in our churches drew to a close with our final two celebrations of Mass on Friday 20 March at the churches of St Bernadette and St Philip Neri. An initial three-week lockdown has lasted over three months, and it has been a difficult and trying time for us all. As we approach the restoration of public Mass on Saturday 4 July, all be it in a limited capacity, it is good to reflect on what has been going on during this lockdown, where we are now, and how we are to move forward as a community of faith.

### **What has been going on**

Since the beginning of the lockdown we have been sending out a daily spiritual bulletin, with content for prayer as well as any church news. That has been sent out each day to 171 email addresses and 190 WhatsApp group members. Fr John and Fr Jonathan have also been covering 15 hours a week of ecumenical chaplaincy at Kings Mill Hospital on top of call outs to Catholic patients. We have been responsible for end of life care and funeral rites not only for our own parishes, but the surrounding areas as well where clergy have been shielding. Early and mid-lockdown this demand was significant. We have kept in good contact with all three of our schools and visit both primaries regularly. Each weekend we have uploaded a recording of Mass, produce a liturgy to pray at home, and shared a shortened form of the newsletter.

### **Where we are now**

With great effort, financial outlay, and a volunteer base of 31 parishioners we secured permission to open St Philip Neri for private prayer for 7.5 hours a week spread over five days. This has been a huge success with 156 visitors through the doors this week. St Joseph's church has also been put to use, temporarily repurposed for school use so as to facilitate contact time with all year groups before the summer holidays. Works are currently being undertaken at St Teresa's and St Philip's. At St Teresa's to make good the roof after an ingress of water to the church and hall, and at St Philip Neri to secure the carpark due to growing use by non-parishioners parking for work or living nearby, including parking overnight, and to bring us in line with diocesan regulation. Financially the parish of St Philip Neri saw a decrease in income of 47% over April/May 2020 when compared with April/May 2019, the Parish of St Joseph with St Bernadette and St Teresa saw a decrease in income of 81% across the same months.

### **Planning ahead**

Masses will begin again at St Philip Neri on Saturday 4 July 2020, these will be limited in number and ticketed. Each Mass, funeral or wedding requires a team of stewards and cleaners in order to go ahead. We intend to begin with Mass in this limited way at St Philip Neri, which has the prerequisite permissions to open from the diocese. These Masses will serve all four of our church communities. During the month of July we intend to slowly and safely adjust practice in line with guidance and in response to demand. Our hope is that legislation will have relaxed enough to make the opening of St Joseph, St Bernadette and St Teresa more practicable as time goes on, reviewing this toward the end of July in light of lessons learned at St Philip Neri.

### **Still waiting**

We are still waiting to hear from the hierarchy on how we will conduct weddings and baptisms. We will share news concerning these sacraments when we receive it. We also look forward with great joy to being able in due course to baptise, receive and confirm our catechumens and candidates who were preparing to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil this year.

## SOCIALLY DISTANCED MASS

On 4 July, at 6.00pm, we will resume public Mass at St Philip Neri Church. These Masses will serve all four of our church communities. We begin this important step cautiously and will be reviewing and adapting our practice as we move forward. Initially attendance at Mass will be limited to just 40 people and we will continue to observe 2 metre distancing. As such attendance at Mass will be facilitated by a ticketing system, and **prior booking will be a prerequisite of attendance**, at least initially whilst we take these first tentative steps in restoring worship.

### **Booking**

This will be the most difficult and painful part of our new normal for the time being. It will simply not be possible for everyone to attend the Mass they would like, and we ask that we all bear with one another gently and with a generous spirit when it comes to limiting the number of worshippers at Mass. Booking will be largely automated and will take place via the parish website where available tickets for each Mass can be seen in real time. When booking for Mass we ask you to consider others. If you know of a friend or relative who is unable to access the internet please complete the booking for them online, putting their name and your email address as a point of contact. If you do not work during the week please consider attending a weekday Mass rather than a weekend Mass, so as to allow those who are limited by work every opportunity to return to the Sacraments in a timely manner. At this current time there is no obligation to attend Mass, and as such no reason particularly to attend on a Sunday as opposed to any other day. During this early stage of re-opening we ask that you only book for one Mass per week, so as to afford the greatest opportunity to others to receive Holy Communion again and to aid us in gauging demand so we can adjust the number and times of Masses accordingly.

### **Practicalities in Church**

Mass itself will also be a little different. At the direction of the hierarchy there will be no singing at Mass, due to its projective aerosol effects. Mass must also be kept brief, so as to minimise our time gathering, as such we are directed to omit the bidding prayers and to significantly shorten the homily. For social distancing reasons there will be no offertory procession, the collection will be given at entry to the church, the sign of peace is suspended and Holy Communion will be distributed under only one kind. The walkways of the church are marked out at 2 metre intervals and we ask that all parishioners keep distance throughout their visit to the church. There are two options as to how Holy Communion can be distributed. For the moment we will adopt the more stringent of the two, as such Communion will be distributed after Mass and parishioners are asked to leave the church having received Communion. Communion itself is placed in the hand of the communicant by the priest who has sanitised his hands, both priest and communicant should have their arms at full stretch.

### **Ongoing adjustments**

We will review all of the above regularly and make changes in light of experience. We are beginning cautiously, and there is scope for expansion and adaption, but it is far better to be able to open up further after careful thought and reflection than to move too quickly and have to scale back. We hope everyone will be as understanding, accommodating, and supportive of their fellow parishioners as possible during this unprecedented time. Please spread the word. Please help keep the less computer literate informed, and aid them in booking in for Mass.

*If you know of someone who does not receive the newsletter via email, WhatsApp or our website we would be grateful if you could give them a copy. We are happy to provide printed copies if helpful*