

# Parish Newsletter

Halston Street Parish

18th & 19th of July 2020

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## Welcome Back!

With God's help we were able to reopen the Church doors once again on Saturday 4th of July. The last few months have been extremely difficult for all. Our Parish Church is the centre of our faith lives and it wasn't an easy decision to close the doors in March.

We spent over a month planning our reopening to ensure that when we opened the doors we did so in a safe way. Our Parish Steering COVID Steering Group - Fr Martin, Carmel Keogh and Fr Patrick - took the lead to ensure we are compliant with best practice.

### **Volunteers**

Thank you to all our volunteers who have come forward as Stewards and Cleaners. It's a fact that without volunteers we couldn't open the doors. Over the last two weekends they have brought their great joy and enthusiasm to all they do. During the week, they very efficiently stewarded our first funeral since reopening. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please email [halstonst@gmail.com](mailto:halstonst@gmail.com)

### **Weekday Mass**

For now our weekday Masses will remain on the webcam only (9:30am - Monday to Friday). The best advice is to have a slow and steady reopening of the Church. After the 20th of July we will invite our Ministers of the Word to read at the weekend Mass once more and we will have flowers in the Church once again. These may seem like small things however each step we take is very significant.

### **Deepest Sympathy**

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and neighbours of all our Parishioners who died while the Church was closed. Our intention is to work with the families to organise a Mass of Remembrance once all the restrictions have been lifted.

## **Communion and Confirmation Dates**

We have been working with the Principals of Presentation Primary, George's Hill and St Paul's National School, Brunswick Street to set dates for Communion and Confirmation.

The dates for **First Holy Communion** are as follows:

Friday 2nd of October 2020 and Friday 9th of October 2020 at 11am.

A date for First Confession has yet to be set. These dates have already been communicated to the parents by the schools.

The dates for **Confirmation** are:

Saturday 5th of September 2020, 11am - George's Hill

Saturday 12th of September 2020, 11am - St Paul's, Brunswick Street.

Saturday 19th of September 2020, 11am - St Paul's, Brunswick Street.

## **Sick Calls**

We began sick calls again last week and continue this week to bring Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick to those who are housebound. If you have a relative or if you would benefit from a sick call yourself, please contact Fr Martin on 01 873 0675.

## **Funerals**

Funerals are very difficult at the best of times. As necessary as the restrictions are, we appreciate how the restrictions have put pressure on families at such a challenging time for them. We aim to work closely with each family to help them plan a funeral Mass for their loved one in the Parish Church.

We have a reduced seating capacity in the Church until further notice. In reality this means that we can sit 28 individuals **or** up to 50 from family groups / households. **The maximum capacity of the Church is 50 persons.** The Government has not increased this as yet. When it comes to organising a funeral in the Church we will work closely with the family. We promise to do what we can within the guidelines.

We have a tradition of large funerals coming to the Church. For the time being we cannot facilitate large numbers and so, in conjunction with the family and undertaker, we will explore alternative ways people can come together in prayer to pay their respects. Not everyone will be able to attend the funeral Mass and we will give priority to the family members.