

On the Reopening of the Churches and the Celebration of Masses from Fr Allan

I think most people will now realise that All Hallows is open for private prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am - 12 noon. Thank you to our stewards and those who are making sure that everything runs smoothly.

Work on the interior of St Dyfrig's is almost finished. The church has been "deep cleaned by cleaners who have all of the professional equipment necessary. On Monday we hope to bring back all of the sanctuary furniture from the hall and then make the church ready for private prayer. This means that signs will be set up directing people through the church, guiding them to their seats, asking them to use the hand sanitisers, keep a safe distance from one another and other instructions besides. We will then have to apply to the Archdiocese for a certificate to say that we can legally reopen for private prayer. Neil Spillar who is the Health and Safety Officer for All Hallows and St Dyfrig's will apply for this. When we have this, we can invite people to come for prayer. The days and times for this will be published on the parish website.

Last Friday the Welsh Government gave permission for "Collective Worship" to take place in the churches and chapels of Wales. This means theoretically that from Monday 13th July mass can be celebrated according to the Coronavirus guidelines - this means "when it is safe to do so". The Bishops of England and Wales have prepared a document that will help us in the celebration of mass. However, there will be even more things to put in place alongside the ones we are doing for private prayer. Not all churches will start celebrating mass at the same time and for some it will be a long time before they can do this. In this "in between" time the dispensation from attending mass on Saturday or Sunday still holds. During this time of pandemic there is no obligation to attend mass.

We now have the facilities to "Stream" masses on the internet. This equipment was installed last week. I will pass on the way to access mass as soon as possible.

Work has begun on the pathway between the presbytery and the church. The flagstones were uneven and a health hazard. I haven't been told when this will be finished. The work on the half dome at the entrance to the church has been completed and the scaffolding should be taken down soon.

In last week's newsletter it was reported that we had been awarded another grant. This was for the work that is to take place in the Parish Hall. I would like to thank Mr Roy Mayo and team for all the work they had undertaken to ensure this grant. I am sure they will keep us informed as to the next steps.

I am sure you have already heard people say that Coronavirus is completely changing the way we live our lives. Even in All Hallows and St Dyfrig's we are coming to realise the truth of this. We continue to pray for those we have known and loved who have died as a result of the virus.