



**Sancti venite, Christi corpus sumite  
Come Holy People of God, Receive the Body of Christ.**

Dear Parishioner,

The following is a guideline for the possible re-opening of our churches.

- The Sunday / Holyday obligation has been suspended for the time being and those who cannot come to Mass are invited to participate on webcam or the parish radio link.
- Please note, those who are concerned about their Sunday obligations any weekday mass fulfils all obligations for the foreseeable future.
- Those who are sick or have any symptoms of, or, confirmed COVID-19 should stay at home.
- Close contacts of a person who has a confirmed or suspected case of the virus should stay at home.
- It is suggested that those in the vulnerable category or with an underlying illness should also stay at home.

### **Practicalities When Public Masses Return**

- Entry to the churches will be through the main door only and all doors will be used to exit the church.
- At the moment, with the social distancing approx. 100 parishioners can be accommodated at any one mass in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, (30 in Drum & Clonown) **this number will change as and when social distancing is relaxed.**
  - People will sit apart in seats to fulfil social distancing requirements.
  - However, one household can be seated together.
  - **Please follow the instructions of the volunteers.**
- For the reception of Holy Communion in each church. Please follow the instructions of the Stewards.
  - Holy Communion can only be distributed in your hand.
- We encourage all members of the congregation to wash and sanitise their hands before leaving home and perhaps bring their own pocket hand-sanitiser with them. If you are more comfortable wearing a face mask you may do so.
  - **People are encouraged not to bring unnecessary items into the church for mass. i.e handbags.**

- The need for volunteers (stewards and cleaners) **for each mass is essential.** Without the help of these people the church cannot open.
  - Volunteers application form are available in the churches. They must be signed and placed into boxes provided. **These must be returned as soon as possible.** Training will be provided for those involved.
- Parishioners attending Masses must adhere to the instruction of the Stewards when entering and leaving the church.
- Everyone **MUST** use the sanitiser provided inside the Church and sanitise when entering the Church.
- The contribution for the upkeep of the parish will be taken up at mass. A basket will be placed on a table as you enter the church and you may place your offering/contribution into it, you will be escorted to your seat. While we will try to accommodate you to sit as near to the place you normally sit please be aware that we cannot guarantee or reserve a seat for anyone.
- Under the current guidelines we can not allow any more than the safe recommended numbers into Masses, We apologise in advance if you are unable to get into the church for Mass and hope that you understand that this beyond our control.
- Notice of dates for re-opening will be published on the Parish website, Facebook pages & in both Churches.

**Without the help of volunteers and cleaners we cannot proceed to open our churches until all these requirements are in place.**

***On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council***

***Fr. John Deignan PP***

*Fr. John Deignan*

***Parish Priest***

***Colm Naughton***

*Colm Naughton*

***Chairperson***

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*Inscription above the Sanctuary in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church, Athlone*