

RE. Private Prayer at St Cecilia's Reopening guidelines

Dear fellow parishioners,

We would like to inform you that the Archdiocese has written to all parishes offering guidance regarding the opening of churches for private prayer. This is really good news for us all – a small step forward before we can move to the main Sacraments.

At St Cecilia's, we will trial private prayer sessions over a three-week period. The church will be open on:

- Mondays – 22nd June, 29th June and 6th July 10:00am to 11:00am
- Saturdays – 27th June, 4th July and 11th July 6:00pm to 7:00pm

This is an ever-evolving situation, and our approach will be dependent on the guidelines issued by the Government and the Archdiocese. The success of our private prayer sessions will be reviewed after three weeks. We will keep you updated through our newsletter (available on the parish website), **email and by word of mouth.**

To ensure that we can create a safe environment for private prayer, we need your support! We are in urgent need of volunteers to act as stewards, to enforce social distancing and to help clean areas of the church on either day. If you are keen to help, please let us know by emailing us: stceciliarota@outlook.com

In order to ensure your safety, we would request that you refrain from volunteering if you are categorised as a vulnerable person – i.e. if you are over 70 years old, have health issues, are taking any prescribed medication (such as immune suppressant drugs, steroids, etc.) or have any health conditions including breathing problems such as asthma. Our priority is keeping our parishioners safe – please do not expose yourself to unnecessary risk by volunteering if you fall into any of the above categories.

Please follow our new guidelines for church visits:

- **Please do not visit the church if you feel unwell OR have any symptoms of the virus** – such as fever, headache, body aches, persistent cough and/or loss of taste and smell etc. (A full list of symptoms can be found on the Government website.)
- **Volunteers will be located at the entrance and exit.** They will be taking a register of visitors (name and preferred contact details) in order to track and trace the spread of virus.
- **Hand sanitiser** will be provided for you at the entrance and exit doors.
- **The church will have limited seating capacity.** You will be guided to a numbered seat by one of our volunteers, to ensure that social distancing is maintained.
- Please **do not touch statues or attempt to light any candles.**
- There will be **no access to the church toilet.**
- Use of your own **masks and gloves** is highly recommended.
- **We ask for your patience and cooperation with our volunteers** – they are giving up their own time and putting themselves at a risk so that we can open the church for private prayer.

Please check the parish website for further updates: www.stceciliarcchurch.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you and stay safe.

With Best Wishes,
The Parish Council Team