



Parish of St Simon Stock
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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we are approaching the time of year when it is no longer possible to attend Mass outdoors, I am pleased to be able to announce that, starting from 6.00 pm on Saturday 3rd October 2020 all Masses will be celebrated inside the church.

I am grateful for all the work carried out by the Safety & Maintenance Team who, together with all the volunteer Stewards and Cleaners, continue to make this possible by ensuring that all the Government and Diocesan guidelines are implemented in order to keep us all safe from the risk of a Covid-19 infection.

I wish to thank you in advance for your understanding and patience in these difficult circumstances and I will appreciate your complete co-operation in respecting the restrictions imposed on everyone. So please be guided by the Stewards when entering the church as the total capacity cannot exceed 70 people, including the seating available in the hall.

Please bring with you the NHS Test and Trace card duly completed (downloadable from our parish website) and remember also to wear a mask/face covering. Thank you.

I take this opportunity also to remind you that the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays remains suspended and I quote here a paragraph from the message issued by the Archbishops of England in June this year on this subject:

"We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass... Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people."

"As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist."

Also, in order to maintain our efforts to reach all those who are housebound and/or wish to keep shielding, all Masses will continue to be live streamed until further notice.

At present the times of all weekday Masses remain unchanged, but the weekend Mass times will be as follows:

Saturdays: 6.00 pm

Sundays: 9.00 am; plus 11.00 am

Please note that the doors of the church will only open 15 minutes before Mass to give adequate time to sanitise your hands and for the Stewards to show you to your seats. The doors will be closed after the Homily and the times of the next Service will be displayed on the doors for any late arrivals.

Fr Pawel Sobol