



Parish of Galloon

Letter to Parishioners

28th June 2020

Dear Parishioner,

We are delighted to confirm that The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Newtownbutler and St. Patrick's Church, Donagh, will re-open for public masses, following a deep clean and sanitisation, from Monday June 29th.

We look forward to welcoming you back. However, in order to ensure the safety and health of people, ministers, and priests there will be a number of changes in place. These changes are to ensure adherence with the most up-to-date public health advice, associated regulations, and Clogher diocesan guidelines.

It is most important that people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, should stay at home and, if possible, participate, via webcam at www.churchservices.tv/newtownbutler The same applies to those who have been in recent contact with someone who has the virus, in accordance with public health advice and those who feel vulnerable in any way.

The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation from the Bishops of Ireland still remains in place for the time being.

What can you expect upon return:

1. The Sunday Mass schedule will remain unchanged:

Vigil Mass, Donagh:	Saturday at 6.30pm
Sunday Mass, Newtownbutler:	Sunday at 11.30am

The weekday schedule will be as follows:

Mondays: Donagh at 7pm (with Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal)
Tuesday – Friday: Newtownbutler at 10am (11am in case of a funeral)

However, in order to ensure the *1 meter-plus* physical distancing, **we can accommodate 85 people in Newtownbutler and 65 people in Donagh.** This number will increase with couples or families from the same household attending. Therefore, in order to manage the attendance, we are requesting and planning the following:

- a. Those who are not working are encouraged to attend a weekday Mass***
- b. Those who are working are encouraged to attend on Saturday or Sunday***
- c. You may attend more than one weekday Mass instead of a Sunday.***
- d. Those from surrounding parishes to attend Mass at their local church***
- e. The seating will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis with stewards showing you to the next available seat.***
- f. You must sanitise your hands on entering the Church***
- g. Please follow the guidance of the stewards at all times***
- h. You must strictly follow the guidelines announced by the priest for the reception of Holy Communion***

2. The Church doors will open 30 minutes prior to Mass.
3. Hand sanitisation stations will be provided upon entry & exit but parishioners are welcome to bring their own sanitiser and disinfection wipes if they wish.
4. **A one-way system will be in place, with parishioners entering through the main front doors only.**
5. Stewards will guide you to your seat, at Holy Communion and also on leaving the church. Your co-operation with the stewards is much appreciated.
6. At all Masses **a secure box for giving envelopes and donations** is provided at the back of each Church with parishioners requested to sanitise after donating. Please continue to use this box.
7. Parishioners are requested to observe the *1-metre-plus* physical distancing both inside and outside the Church.
8. Face coverings are not mandatory but parishioners are welcome to wear them.
9. **Parishioners are requested to receive Holy Communion on the hand.** Priests and Eucharistic ministers will sanitise their hands and wear face masks/visors for distribution of Holy Communion.
10. In order to reduce the transmission of Covid-19, the church toilets and door handles will be cleaned frequently.
11. 10 seats will be reserved for the families of a Month's Mind or First Anniversary Mass. No seats will be reserved for subsequent anniversaries.
12. **These guidelines will be reviewed regularly and any further announcements will be given at the end of Mass and included in the Parish Newsletter.**
13. **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Public Confessions have resumed. Please see Parish Bulletin and Noticeboards for further details.**

Whilst these are abnormal times for us all we ask for your patience and co-operation over the coming period. The situation will be kept under review and further changes may be required to ensure we make the transition as safe and as smooth for all involved.

We would like to sincerely thank all our parishioners for your support of our parish over the last few months of lockdown. A particular word of appreciation to those who joined the Masses, Devotions, Rosaries and Holy Hours over the webcam in such large numbers; to those who showed thoughtfulness and kindness to the priests of the parish in so many ways and to those who have continued to support the parish financially through the envelope collection and the parish draw. Your commitment and faithfulness to our parish is not taken for granted and is very encouraging and a credit to you all as the people of our parish. Thank you.

Lastly, thank you to our Sacristans, Secretary and Musicians who have faithfully served the parish without fail over the last number of months. They have been a great support and their dedication is very much appreciated. Thank you also to those who have volunteered to help with re-opening and assist as stewards.

With your support, we will adjust to this new reality and, please God, return to regular parish life when the current crisis passes.

With every blessing to you and your families,

Fr. Kevin Malcolmson

Fr. Michael King.