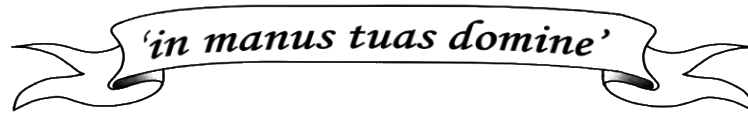


**CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston
incorporating the communities of
St Peter's, Bude and Our Lady of Victories, Callington**



Opening Churches for public Masses in St Cuthbert Mayne Parish

Dear parishioners,

Before I explain how we are going to start celebrating Masses in public again in our parish, I first want to shout with you a hearty '**Alleluia!**', as we will soon be celebrating Mass together again after 3 months of Eucharistic fast. This is good news indeed.

I would ask you to please read Bishop Mark's message, which you can also find on You Tube (Plymouth Diocese). The message is called 'Return from Exile'. It so beautifully puts into words what we are all feeling and gives a context for our return to Mass in the light of the Scripture Readings for next Sunday.

Just to highlight one thing the bishop says: **The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday is still suspended.**

While we can again gather for public worship, this is not a return to where we were last March. These are strange times. As everywhere else, we need to take special care to keep everyone as safe as is reasonably possible.

The bishops of England and Wales have given us guidelines on the celebration of Masses, as we return for public worship. Parish Priests need to put these guidelines into action in our own church communities, given our unique circumstances which, in this parish, are challenging given that our buildings are small.

Our Parish

Capacity:

Social distancing is in place and, as in most (if not all) the other churches in the diocese, we will be retaining 2 metres of social distancing. This means that the capacity of our churches is as follows:

St Peter's Bude: 11

St Cuthbert Mayne Launceston: 13

Our Lady of Victories Callington: 11

Families or couples can sit together so will count as one place.

As you can see, capacity is very limited. I am afraid that once the church is at capacity, we cannot allow more parishioners in.

Days and Times of Masses:

While we are permitted to start celebrating public Masses from next weekend, the 4th/5th July, I will not be celebrating public Sunday Masses, to begin with. Given the limited capacity I will start with weekday Masses at each of our churches.

There will be 2 weekday Masses each at Launceston (Tuesday 7pm and Thursday 10am), and Bude (Wednesday 10am and Saturday 10am), and one weekday Mass at Callington (Friday 10am). You will also find the days and times in next week's newsletter. This will be for 2 weeks, and then I will review in the light of experience of how things have gone and decide how to proceed.

Some important points:

- There is a one-way system in each of our churches.
- Holy Communion will be given at the very end of Mass. Parishioners will receive Holy Communion and then leave the church directly.
- Stewards will be present to guide and help maintain social distancing.
- A collection plate will be available at the exit for those who want/able to give. Special precautions will be in place for counting/handling of cash.
- Toilet facilities will remain closed for now.

-Until we know more from the experience of doing this, I would ask that parishioners think of coming only to one Mass a week. We need to think of the needs of other parishioners and try to ensure as many as possible will have access to the Eucharist.

-It is possible that the government will require that we take a register of names of those who enter the church for track and trace purposes. They haven't so far, but be prepared.

Stewards and Cleaners:

I am really grateful for the teams of volunteers of stewards and cleaners at each of our churches. If you are in a position to help, please consider becoming a volunteer steward. We can only open if we have 2 stewards on duty. I can no longer act as a steward as I will be celebrating Mass.

Live streaming/YouTube

I will continue to record a Sunday Mass and put it on YouTube, for those who are unable to return for Mass.

We continue to explore possibilities of live-streaming, and other options to enable more parishioners to participate.

We are living in a new reality and are having to do things rather differently. This is the beginning of a journey of returning to full churches and vibrant communities. Let us be patient and pray for one another, look forward to participating more fully in the Eucharist and receiving the holy body and blood of the Lord Jesus once again.

God bless you.

Father John