



HOLY CROSS and SS PETER & PAUL

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Dykes

[www.romancatholiclichfield.co.uk](http://www.romancatholiclichfield.co.uk)



Dear Parishioners,

#### OPENING HOLY CROSS

The new regulations starting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings. Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer.

We have been issued with guidance from the Archdiocese specifically relating to re-opening our churches for private prayer. Each church must put in place all guidance and complete a risk assessment. Our Opening Coordinating Team have been working hard to implement the guidance. The risk assessment for Holy Cross has been submitted and we have been granted permission to reopen Holy Cross Church.

Opening Coordinating Team Members:

Fr Anthony Dykes

Fr John Hancock

John Adams

Andrew Bodger

Janet Mellor

Peter O'Brien

Luke Salkeld

Teresa Walters

Gerard Wilcox

The following preparations have been made by the team. All decisions will be reviewed by the team on a weekly basis. We expect the guidelines and restrictions to change often.

#### 1. When Holy Cross will be open for Private Prayer:

The following opening time allows for an effective cleaning regime to be put in place, for our volunteers to be safe and above all allow you to worship safely.

Tuesdays	OPEN 10am – 11am
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You are welcome to come into the church at any point during this hour

Fr Anthony will be available during this time to hear **confession** in the Community Room

Please note Ss Peter & Pauls Church also remains open for private prayer on Saturdays 10am - 11am.



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## 2. Cleaning:

We have been given clear and precise guidance to cleaning the church. Every person involved in the cleaning of our churches will be given the information to ensure we are adhering to guidance.

- The church will be cleaned professionally prior to opening.
- The church will be cleaned professionally after each day of use.
- Some areas of the church will need to be cleaned more regularly throughout the opening times of the church. This includes points such as door handles, pews and railings. A volunteer cleaner will be present during all opening times who will aim to clean all surfaces after each individual use.

## 3. Ensuring safety & social distancing:

- Access into Holy Cross will be through the Narthex door in the car park. There will be a one way system throughout the church identified by signage and arrows. Exit from the church will be through the main door at the back of the church.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be at the entry and exit points of the church. It is required that all people use this on entry and exit.
- Votive candles will be available to light in church. Stewards will be available to help ensure the handling and lighting of candles will be done safely. Parishioners are prohibited from bringing in their own candles for use in the church
- It is necessary to prevent access to certain areas of the church. These areas will be cordoned off. Please be aware we have been instructed to prevent access to toilets. There will be no toilet facilities available.
- In order to ensure a 2 meter radius distance is maintained whilst seated, some benches have been cordoned off.
- The maximum capacity at Holy Cross is 'one family / bubble per bench'. We have 14 benches available.
- Once the maximum capacity has been reached, the stewards on duty shall ask people to queue outside and operate a one-in-one-out system. There will be markings on the ground outside the church to maintain social distancing whilst queueing. In bad weather stewards will offer the option of waiting in cars and being called in in order of arrival.



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- Signage will be clear throughout the church to ensure those attending know how to keep safe whilst at the church.
- Holy water stoups will remain empty

#### **4. Stewarding**

Andrew Bodger has taken the role of Head Steward. If you would like to volunteer to be a steward, please get in touch with Andrew at: [aobodger@hotmail.com](mailto:aobodger@hotmail.com)

We have been given guidance about who can volunteer. Guidance has changed and people over 70years can now become volunteers.

Every volunteer will have training and will be given the information and necessary PPE in order to adhere to the guidance set out by the government and Archdiocese.

#### **5. What is required of you when you visit Holy Cross?**

- Please stay at home if:
  - You are required to self isolate
  - You have a pre-existing condition or are immuno-compromised
  - You are feeling ill
  - You suspect you may be ill or have been exposed to Covid 19
  - You have a sick family member at home
- All entering the church will be required to use a face covering at all times to minimise the risk of contagion to all present. People who are exempt from wearing a mask and children under 5years may enter the church without a mask.
- You must use the hand sanitiser provided at the entrance and exit of the church
- Personal possessions should be kept to a minimum and should be taken away on leaving the church.
- Any items found during cleaning shall be disposed of and shall not be deposited in any lost property.
- Track and Trace: There is a QR Code at the entrance of the church which can be scanned with the NHS Track and Trace App. Alternatively you can give your details to the welcoming steward for our own track and trace system. Your details will not be shared with any third



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party and will only be used for track and trace purposes. It is not a requirement of you to take part in track and trace.

## 6. Communication

The Opening Coordination team are meeting on a regular basis and will be reviewing decisions if there is a change to the advice from the government and Archdiocese. We shall be communicating any new information and changes to our church as soon as we can.

All our information will be published on our parish website. Please pass on any of this information to any parishioner you know who does not have access online.

**We understand that there is a lot of information to take in and some of the changes may be concerning or even a little frightening. We are doing all that we can to make your visit to church as safe and as prayerful as possible.**

*Teresa Walters & The Opening Coordination Team 13/11/2020*