



HOLY CROSS and SS PETER & PAUL

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Dykes

www.romancatholiclichfield.co.uk



Dear Parishioners,

It is the government's intention to allow the phased re-opening of places of worship from 15th June 2020. It will begin with private prayer. In due course, there will be the opportunity for there to be public celebration of Mass.

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. The risk assessment must then be passed by the Archdiocese. We shall then wait for permission to be granted to open our churches in Lichfield from 15th June at the earliest.

We have put together a team of parishioners to coordinate the opening of our churches in Lichfield. We are all working hard to make sure we adhere to the guidance and are putting in place the new rules and systems. We hope to hear we have been granted permission to open from 15th June.

Opening Coordinating Team Members:

Fr Anthony Dykes

John Adams

Andrew Bodger

Janet Mellor

Peter O'Brien

Luke Salkeld

Teresa Walters

Gerard Wilcox

The following preparations are being made by the team to strive for permission to be granted to open our churches. All decisions will be reviewed by the team on a weekly basis. We expect the guidelines and restrictions to change often.

1. The opening of our churches:

Whilst our intention is to have both Holy Cross and Ss Peter & Paul open for private prayer, it is concluded that under the current circumstances Holy Cross cannot be re-opened in a manner where virus spread can be reasonably expected to be minimised. Ss Peter & Paul church only is being prepared for reopening from 15th June. This decision will be reviewed on a weekly basis in accordance with the advice from the government and Archdiocese.



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2. When we aim to be open:

PLEASE NOTE OPENING IS SUBJECT TO BEING GRANTED PERMISSION FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE. WE SHALL BE COMMUNICATING NEWS OF THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

To ensure we are able to keep to all the guidelines set out from the Archdiocese, we shall be opening Ss Peter & Paul in a gradual manner. The times and days we are open will be reviewed on a weekly basis and will be extended when it is safe to do so.

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

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	OPEN 10am - 2pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	OPEN 4pm - 8pm
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	OPEN 10am - 2pm

3. 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 items such as door handles, pews and railings. A volunteer cleaner will be present at all times who will aim to clean all surfaces after each individual use.

4. Ensuring safety & social distancing:

- Access into Ss Peter & Paul will be through the main front door. There will be a one way system throughout the church identified by signage and arrows. Exit from the church will be through the north door (next to Our Lady's altar)
- 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.



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- 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, there will be marked out areas on the pews where you can sit. Members of the same household are welcome to sit together.
- We shall have a maximum capacity within the church. This number has yet to be confirmed. Once the maximum capacity has been reached, the stewards on duty shall ask people to wait outside and operate a one-in-one-out system. There will be markings on the ground outside the church to maintain social distancing whilst queuing.
- 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

5. Stewarding

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

We have been given guidance about who can volunteer. At present this excludes those who are deemed vulnerable (over 70 years, and/or with certain pre-existing health conditions, self-isolating or shielding).

We shall require volunteers to work in teams of 4: 3 stewards and one cleaner. These teams should remain in their groups to minimise contact.

Each team will be required to work in 2 hour shifts, potentially once a week.

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.



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6. What is required of you

- All entering the church will be recommended to use a face covering at all times to minimise the risk of contagion to all present. Face masks will be provided at the church entrance. Please dispose of your face mask in the bin provided at the exit.
- 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.
- We do not discourage parents or guardians bringing children into the church, but it is important for parents to manage their children appropriately, particularly ensuring they touch as few surfaces as possible.
- If you fall ill after coming into the church, please inform the parish office of your circumstances. This is for us to put in place safety measures – no personal information will be given out. holycross.lichfield@rcaob.org.uk

7. 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.

We shall be uploading photographs of the new layout of the church to our parish website soon so you are able to see what we have put in place before your visit. We hope this will make things easier to understand and will be reassuring to you.

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 09/06/2020