

ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON CHURCHES WITH ST THOMAS BECKET, TARPORLEY UPDATE BULLETIN

Weekend of 18th July 2021

and following week

Front Page Update

To help make access easier for people to see we have simplified the Website Front Page and put some of the links into this Bulletin.

Contacts

For Our Lady & St Bernard Parish & St Thomas Becket Parish, Tarporley	For St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels' Parish
Canon Niall Mullaley & Deacon Paul Sutton E: parishol@rcchep.co.uk T: 0151 355 1255	Father Louis Maggiore & Deacon Tony Hunt E: stsoff@rcchep.co.uk T: 0151 327 6158

Pastoral Area Clergy from September 2021: Father Edmund Montgomery & Father Humphrey O'Connor

A new start for the Ellesmere Port & Hooton & Tarporley Parishes: We announced recently that from the first weekend in September 5th/6th I, Canon Niall Mullaley, will be moving from Our Lady & St Bernard's to the Parish of St Philip Neri in Birkenhead, which consists of the Churches of St Joseph's in North Road, and St Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch. Also we made you aware that Father Louis Maggiore and Deacon Tony Hunt will be moving from St Saviour & St Mary's Parish to Christ the King, Bromborough that same weekend.

This means that from that weekend of the 5th/6th September St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels' Parish and Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Bernard of Clairvaux Parish will be served as one 'Missionary Parish' under the Pastoral Care of Father Edmund Montgomery, who will move here from our Cathedral in Shrewsbury. Father Edmund will be assisted by the newly ordained Father Humphrey O'Connor. Many of you will remember Father Humphrey who was a student priest in our Pastoral Area based with me at Our Lady's. Father Humphrey was meant to be with us for a year, but had to leave in March 2020 just before the first 'Hard Lockdown' in March 2020.

Deacon Paul Sutton and Acolyte Tony Nuttall, preparing for the diaconate, will remain in this Pastoral Area working with Father Edmund and Father Humphrey as they can.

As of the beginning of September I will cease to be Regional Dean and Father Paul Shaw in St Werburgh's, Chester will then take over as Acting Dean of our West Cheshire, Chester, Ellesmere Port and Tarporley Deanery.

As Regional Dean I have had Pastoral Oversight of St Thomas Becket Parish in Tarporley, and we have managed the Parish from our LPA Office here at Our Lady's. From September Father Paul Standish in St John Vianney Parish, based in Northwich, Regional Dean of the Central Cheshire Deanery, will take over the Pastoral Care and Administration of St Thomas Becket liaising with Father Joe Carney who, whilst now retired, is still in residence at St Thomas Becket, and kindly celebrates the Sunday Mass for us there when he is able.

We will let you know the new contact arrangements before the changeover at the beginning of September. In the meantime anyone from St Thomas Becket, Tarporley is welcome to still contact me.

Bishop Mark has to care for the needs of our Diocese of Shrewsbury as whole, in making these changes he is considering the best way for each of our Parishes and Pastoral Areas to grow as we enter into new days as Pandemic Regulations are eased. As was said last weekend, change is never easy for any of us, but it does present an opportunity for a new beginning. Let us continue to support each other in prayer during this transition, that this new start will help us all in our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Ordinations to the Priesthood and Diaconate this summer: Last Friday, 16th July, Bishop Mark ordained Deacon Patrick Breeze, Deacon Humphrey O'Connor and Deacon Stephen Roberts to the Priesthood at St Anthony's, Wythenshawe.

On Saturday coming, 24th July Bishop Mark will ordain John McKay and Wilfred McSherry to the Diaconate at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Woodchurch.

Do please keep all these men in your prayers as they come to this new call to the Service of the Gospel.

Wider changes in our Diocese:

To give you an idea of where our changes fit into the wider scheme of the whole Diocese. Bishop Mark wrote recently in the '*Ad Clerum*' the regular letter to Clergy and Religious in the Diocese:

Cathedral Dean:

Father Christopher Matthews as Dean of the Cathedral and Canon of the Cathedral Chapter from Sunday 8th August. (Moving from St Philip Neri Parish, Birkenhead)

Parish Priests:

Canon Niall Mullaley as Parish Priest of Saint Philip Neri, Birkenhead from Sunday 5th September.

I am very grateful to **Father Paul Shaw** for accepting the invitation to serve as the Acting Dean of the Ellesmere Port and Chester Deanery.

I am also very grateful **Father Paul Standish** who will assume pastoral and administrative responsibility for Saint Thomas Becket, Tarporley, from Sunday 5th September.

Father Thomas Thoppaparambil OFM Cap is to take up a new appointment in Italy at the direction of the Capuchin Order.

Father Louis Maggiore to be Parish Priest of Christ the King, Bromborough from Sunday 5th September.

Father Edmund Montgomery to be Parish Priest of Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Saint Bernard's & Saint Saviour's, Ellesmere Port and Saint Mary's, Hooton from Sunday 5th September.

Canon Paschal Byrne to retire as Parish Priest of Saint Luke's, Bebington and remain resident at the presbytery on Church Road.

Father Bernard Forshaw to be Parish Priest of Saint Luke's, Bebington with Saint John's New Ferry and Saint Anne's, Rock Ferry from Sunday 5th September.

Father Paul O'Grady has now retired as Parish Priest of Saint Winefride's, Neston due to ill-health.

Father Francis Kochupaliath (on loan to us from the Society of Saint Paul) to be Parochial Administrator of Saint Winefride's, Neston with the pastoral oversight of Canon Stephen Coonan from Sunday 11th July.

Assistant Priests:

Rev Patrick Breeze following his priestly ordination on 16th July to the Cathedral Parish as Assistant Priest from Sunday 5th September.

Rev Humphrey O'Connor following his priestly ordination on 16th July to Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Saint Bernard's and Saint Saviour's, Ellesmere Port and Saint Mary's, Hooton as Assistant Priest from Sunday 5th September

Rev Stephen Roberts following his priestly ordination on 16th July to Sacred Heart and Saint Peter and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parishes, Wythenshawe as Assistant Priest from Sunday 5th September.

Deacons:

Deacon Anthony Hunt to Christ the King, Bromborough as Parish Deacon from Sunday 5th September.

Deacon Moses Ezebuchi to Our Lady & the Apostles, Saint Ambrose and Saint Vincent's, Stockport from Sunday 5th July

John McKay following ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on 24th July, to serve at Saint Peter's Hazel Grove and Saint Philip's Offerton.

Wilfred McSherry following ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on 24th July to serve at Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Stephen Harding, Market Drayton and Saints Peter and Paul Newport."

Pathway out of Lockdown

As you are aware this coming Monday, 19th July, a lot of the pandemic Regulations will be eased. The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales have received guidance from the Government Health Authorities. Whilst a lot of the Restrictions are no longer mandatory, there are some recommendations. Bishop Mark writes:

"I provide below a brief overview of the guidance and recommendations received:

From 19th July it is recommended we continue to provide **sanitiser at entrances and exits to our churches; good ventilation, encourage the wearing of face coverings and maintain general cleaning to a good standard.**

Great care has been taken to ensure people feel safe in our churches. Decisions will need to be made locally regarding **capacity and social distancing**. Some suggestions are offered for the many and varied situations of our churches with the aim of building local confidence. This is something we will need to continue reflecting upon.

Stewarding will no longer be required. This may be a time to consider re-directing the wonderful service of the teams of dedicated, parish stewards for which we have all been grateful.

Congregational singing is permitted from 19th July; however, it is recommended **this be phased in gradually and face coverings continue to be worn** by members of the congregation whilst singing until infection levels reduce. I am not sure how this will exactly work in practice.

Churches can be open for private prayer without stewarding though **QR codes should remain in place**. As long as **NHS Test, Track and Trace** is in operation churches are asked to continue using the available means for people to sign in.

It is recommended that **Holy Water Stoops should not be refilled** at this point though Holy Water can be made available to the Faithful.

Servers, Cantors, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion can be fully deployed as needed. The **Offertory Collection can be resumed with baskets and pouches**; however, online and contactless giving is encouraged if possible.

The Sign of Peace remains suspended in the Liturgy of the Mass to reduce physical contact between members of the congregation.

Holy Communion will continue under one kind with no administration of the Chalice. Ministers are asked to sanitise their hands and wear face coverings as before. Holy Communion is still recommended on the hand though all who wish to receive on the tongue may do so with special care being taken. **It is no longer necessary to have a one-way system or other restrictions on movement within our churches.**

Holy Communion by Concelebrants (including the Principal Celebrant) **should be received only by intinction** and the purification of the sacred vessels undertaken by the principal celebrant alone.

For the celebration of **Baptism** there are no restrictions on numbers though **multiple Baptisms should be avoided.**

For the celebration of **Marriages** there is no restriction on numbers.

For **Funerals** there is no restriction on numbers though liaison with the Funeral Directors over local conditions and regulations at the place of committal will need to continue.

For the **Sacrament of the Anointing** the laying of hands should be by extension of the hands over the sick person and the sign of peace should be a gesture without touch. In a hospital or care home advice should be followed regarding the PPE required. The requirement to be vaccinated to regularly visit care homes is expected to come into force in October and a separate note will be published in due course.

For **Parish Social Activities** it is strongly recommended that a Risk Assessment be completed for both the activity and the space.

For **Catechesis** requirements for COVID security should be determined locally and a combination of in-person online sessions where appropriate, is recommended.”

Two documents are provided below to give a fuller explanation of these next steps, please click on:

[COVID-19 Route Map – Step 4 Guidance](#)

[Statement from the Bishops – Sunday it is our Day](#)

Please see the Parish Sections below for the practical application of these changes,

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- ! For [St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels’ Parish](#), please click (or ‘ctrl+click’) the following blue highlighted link [St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels’ Information](#) or scroll down
- ! For [Our Lady & St Bernard’s Parish](#), please click (or ‘ctrl+click’) the following blue highlighted link [Our Lady & St Bernard’s Information](#) or scroll down
- ! For [St Thomas Becket, Tarporley Parish](#), please click (or ‘ctrl+click’) the following blue highlighted link [St Thomas Becket Tarporley Information](#) or scroll down

General Information

For the Prayers for making a Spiritual Communion Please Click:

[When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly](#)

Pope Francis has prepared two prayers to add to the end of the Rosary for use during this time of pandemic.

Please Click:

[Prayers of Pope Francis to follow the Rosary](#)

Year of St Joseph: Bishop Mark dedicated the recovery of our Diocese, after the COVID-19 Measures, to the intercession of St Joseph, and Pope Francis has also entrusted the whole Universal Church to the Prayer of St Joseph. There are now Prayer Cards available for us to ask the intercession of St Joseph, and these should be available in our Churches. A Prayer Resource for this 'Year of St Joseph' can also be viewed by clicking on the Link Below:

[Prayers for the 'Year of St Joseph'](#)

Masses and Services can be viewed online, these are some links to help:

Diocese of Shrewsbury (Shrewsbury Cathedral): www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Walsingham National RC Shrine of Our Lady: www.walsingham.org.uk

Catholic Television Channel: www.ewtn.com

Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes: As was the case last year, due to Pandemic Regulations limiting travel between countries our Diocese of Shrewsbury Pilgrimage to Lourdes is unable to travel. As was the case last year the Diocese holding a 'Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes' between 31st July to 4th August when the Pilgrimage would normally take place. The Itinerary for this can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

[Diocese of Shrewsbury Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes](#)

Lately Dead: Please pray for the following who have died recently and for their families: Nora Williams, Kevin McCann and Roger Price

Prayers for the Sick: Please pray for Celia Pearson, Doreen Scouler, Marion Fletcher, Terry Gorman and Mark Wilson for whom our prayers have been asked

Diocesan Mission for Catechesis: Follow Mr Reuben Purchase, our Diocesan Coordinator for Catechesis on and the Shrewsbury Diocesan Mission for Catechesis Web Site: www.weareallcatechists.com

SVP Holiday Home Fundraising Link: Many of you will know the difference that the SVP Holiday Home in Talacre has made for families who might not have been able to have a holiday otherwise. With the COVID-19 restrictions the usual Holiday Home Fundraising Activities have not been possible. Therefore the SVP have set up a fundraising page and this can be viewed through the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chesterellesmereportholidayhome>

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Please see the **St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels' Information**, Section and the **Our Lady & St Bernard's Parish** Section below for their Confession Arrangements. At this time we are not able to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at **St Thomas Beckett, Tarporley Parish** for the time being but hope to have more information soon.

For people who are not able to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) the Bishops of England & Wales have recommended that people say 'The Perfect Act of Contrition' below until such time as they are able to return to the Sacrament.

The 'Perfect Act of Contrition':

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy on me."

Readings for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year B: Continuing our Ordinary Time Year B Readings, this weekend's Gospel of St Mark reflects on God's care for his people.

Today's First Reading again sets this scene. The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah proclaimed his message around the year 605 BC in the Kingdom of Judah. Judah was in a moral and religious decline, and the Babylonian Empire was growing in power and threatened to overwhelm Judah, as the northern kingdom of Israel had been overwhelmed previously. The King, and many leading citizens tried to make alliances to bolster their power, but in the end it all proved to be in vain.

Jeremiah felt a call from God to proclaim that the selfish attitude of those in power was causing the decline of the kingdom. Those who were meant to care for God's people, the 'shepherds' the King, Religious and Political Leaders, had ignored the needs of the folk, the ordinary people to pursue their own ambitions.

Jeremiah proclaimed that the kingdom of Judah had more or less 'had its day' that they should let go of their ambitions and agendas, let the Babylonians take over and trust in God would work out his plan through this time and see them through.

This made Jeremiah very unpopular, nearly losing his life. But his words were to prove true, and even when things got worse, the people of power still didn't listen to God's words, they thought their own scheming could sort it. It didn't; and because of their refusal to accept God's way, spoken through Jeremiah, Jerusalem and its Temple were destroyed and the leading citizens exiled to Babylon.

Hence in today's first reading Jeremiah warns those who should have been shepherds to the people that God will raise new leaders 'he will shepherd the people himself' and eventually by the guidance of good shepherds the people would come home and have a new beginning.

Jeremiah years later was to become almost a 'patron saint' to God's people in difficult times.

In today's Gospel of St Mark Jesus show himself the 'Good Shepherd' who cares for and serves the people, he is that very presence of God's care. The crowds find Jesus so 'authentic' his word and example open God way to them, that they hunger for more. Even when Jesus and his disciples try to find some 'space' the people find them! Jesus teaches them, because he loves and cares for them, gives himself totally for them; the sign of a 'Good Shepherd'.

The Second Reading continues the St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Ephesus is now in modern Turkey. The letter comes from the period A.D. 61 to 63 when Paul was under arrest in Rome, but as a Roman Citizen Paul was able to stay under guarded house arrest, and was able to write letters, receive visitors and keep certain freedoms, though under supervision.

St Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians that Jesus was a new beginning; he broke down the difference between the Jewish Law, and people who had come to Christianity from a 'Gentile' Pagan, non-Jewish background. By his self-giving, by being a true 'Shepherd' Jesus had broken down the division, through his self-giving on the Cross, and in the Resurrection had been able 'to unite them both in a single Body'. Whilst some people were claiming to be 'superior' because of this or that heritage, Paul is saying that this has no place in Christianity, but we are called in the Spirit into one 'living body'.

These Pandemic days have seen great hardship across our world, and for many worsened an already desperate situation. In the midst of all this many 'good shepherds' have arisen, near and far. Pope Francis has been a beacon of the loving service of Christ, and this has been reflected in peoples of all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs.

Right here in front of us so many have been signs of Christ's loving service; not always those who can 'do' but sometimes those who have had to 'be' are all playing their part still.

The readings we hear at Mass sometimes can seem distant, but when look at them in the light of Christ they can be opened to see that as those in the past accepted God's invitation, and made his way real and alive, so by our sharing in Christ, strengthened by each other's prayer, and in the Sacraments, we also can make that way of loving service real and alive in our lives.

As today we refresh our commitment to follow Christ, the Good Shepherd, we seek to help each other in making that call of Jesus available and tangible to others by our witness.

CAFOD Link: To take part in the work and mission of the 'Catholic Agency for Overseas Development' (CAFOD) please follow: www.cafod.org.uk

St Saviour & Mary of the Angels' Information



Saturday 17th July:

St: Mary's: 10am Rosary

St Mary's: 11am Holy Mass – First Communion Intentions

St Saviour's: 5.00pm: Vigil Mass of 16th Sunday Ordinary Time

Kathy Dodd RIP

SUNDAY 18th July: 16th Sunday Ordinary Time

St Mary's: 9.00am Holy Mass: Mario Calandrella RIP 11th Anniversary

St Saviour's: 11.00am Holy Mass: Parishioners

Monday 19th July: St John Plessington, Priest, Martyr

9.30am: St Saviour's: Sorry – No Mass or Service

Private Mass: Fr Louis Intention

Tuesday 20th July: - St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr

9.30am: St Mary's Holy Mass - Carol Hogan RIP

Wednesday 21st July: St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor

6.00pm St Saviour's: Adoration & Holy Hour

7.00pm St Saviour's: Holy Mass – Mark Rymel RIP

Birthday Remembrance. (Followed by Novena)

Thursday 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord

9.30am: St Mary's: Holy Mass – Int of the Newsome Family

Friday: 23rd July: - St Bridget of Sweden, Religious Founder
DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EUROPE

9.30am: St Saviour's: Holy Mass – Aidan McDonald RIP

Saturday 24th July: St Sharbel Makhluaf, Priest

St: Mary's: 10am Rosary

St Mary's: 11am Holy Mass – Tom Madden RIP B/day Rem

St Saviour's: 5.00pm: Vigil Mass of 17th Sunday Ordinary Time

Luke Duffy RIP 8th Anniversary.

SUNDAY 25th July: 17th Sunday Ordinary Time

1st WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

St Saviour's: 9.30am Holy Mass: Cath Greer RIP 3rd Anniv.

St Mary's: 11.30am Holy Mass: **(Outdoor in field)** Parishioners

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Roger Price May *he Rest in Peace*

Please keep all of our recently deceased and their families in your prayers.

COVID-19 ROUTE MAP GUIDANCE FROM MONDAY 19th JULY

From this Monday (19th July) there will be no legislation on social distancing in England, thus churches may now increase their capacity.

Many of the previous safety measures are no longer mandatory and there are no restrictions imposed upon attendance at weddings, baptism and funerals. Obviously, we wish to ensure that all feel safe and comfortable in attending our churches. As such, for the time being we hope to continue with our excellent stewarding and associated hygiene measures. The option to attend an outdoor Mass might also be reassuring for some in the weeks ahead. More information will be available in due course.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to prayers Alek Tweedie, Ava Quilty, Amelia Madden & Maria Hunt who made their First Holy Communions last week in St Mary of the Angels church. This weekend we especially keep in our prayers Ella Burns as she makes her First Holy Communion at St Mary of the Angels church. Please keep in your prayers all the children and their families still preparing to receive their First Holy Communion.

PARISH FOODBANK / HAMPERS

With the support of our SVP we continue to distribute hampers & vouchers to families in need of a little support. If you would benefit from this assistance or know of anyone who would, please let us know. Thanks to all who continue to support this vital ministry, it is greatly valued.

MANY THANKS TO PAM JARVIS

Sadly, after 35 years of playing the organ for the community of St Saviour's, Pam has decided that the time has come to hand this role over to someone else. We offer our sincere thanks to Pam for her dedication and service to us all over so many years. If you are a budding musician looking to share your talent with the parish please speak to Fr Louis or Deacon Tony

RCIA AND FAITH SHARING: Please note - there will be **NO** meeting this week. The next meeting will be at 7.15pm on Monday 26th July. If you require any details please call the parish office at St Mary of the Angels.

CAFOD Climate Campaign

This year, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow in November. As Prime Minister, Boris Johnson must push world leaders to show the

ambition we need to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5 degree threshold. This means that all countries must play their part. With the eyes of the world on the UK, CAFOD is encouraging us to urge the Prime Minister to make sure that the communities which are hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Please consider signing CAFOD's petition to the Prime Minister at cafod.org.uk/reclaim - it only takes a couple of minutes! Or you can fill in a petition card (available in the church porch) and either return it directly to CAFOD or bring it back to church to be forwarded on.'

CLERGY MOVES

As we said to you, it is with a heavy heart that our ministry here is to come to a close at the beginning of September. Bishop Mark has asked us to go to Christ the King, Bromborough, and we are obedient to his wishes. We believe our ministry here has been a success, but we couldn't have done it without your openness and willingness to go forward and we especially thank all the parishioners who have worked so hard quietly behind the scenes. Last week we met with your new Clergy, Fr Edmund Montgomery and Fr Humphrey O'Connor, newly ordained a Priest on 16th July. They are two excellent men, and we are confident that the parishes will flourish under their guidance and especially with your ongoing support. We are sure you will give Fr Edmund and Fr Humphrey a warm welcome. Please keep them and us in your prayers as we will always keep you in ours.

Fr Louis & Deacon Tony

MASS TIMES & OUTDOOR MASS AT ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

Next Sunday we are finally able to return to the outdoor Mass at St Mary of the Angels which will take place at 11.30am. Due to this the Sunday Mass at St Saviour's will move to 9.30am. As was the case last summer, this is a temporary arrangement and is in place as a result of the request of many parishioners.

Standing Order and Direct Debit information: Please contact the Parish Office for more information on how to set this up.

If you wish to speak to the clergy regarding any concern, requests for ministry or area of need, please call the Parish office at St Mary of the Angels on 0151 327 6158. (Please note that the office is staffed as much as possible and the answerphone is checked regularly)

We wish you and your families every joy, good health & blessing

Yours in Christ: *Fr Louis, Deacon Tony & Tony Nuttall*

Our Lady & St Bernard's Information

For this week the Private and Public Mass Intentions will be:

Saturday 17th July (The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 6.00pm Mass in Our Lady's Church: Stewards' Intention

Sunday 18th July (The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 9.30am Mass in Our Lady's Church: George Rosenthal

– 11.00am Mass in Our Lady's Church: Parishioners

Monday 19th July (St John Plessington) - No Mass today

Tuesday 20th July - No Mass today

Wednesday 21st July - No Mass today

Thursday 22nd July (St Mary Magdalene)

– 9.15am Mass in Our Lady’s Church: For the Nation

Friday 23rd July (St Bridget of Sweden)

-11.00am to 12.noon Holy Hour

– 12.noon Angelus followed by Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Father Humphrey O’Connor’s Intention

Saturday 24th July

-11.15am to 11.45am Confessions

– 12.noon Angelus followed by Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Priest’s Intention

Saturday 24th July (The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 6.00pm Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Mary Johnson

Sunday 25th July (The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 9.30am Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Parishioners

– 11.00am Mass in Our Lady’s Church: Healing of the Pandemic

- 4.00pm Holy Hour

Mass Times Sheet in Our Lady’s Church: There is a sheet available to take with you listing Mass and Service Times in Our Lady & St Bernard Parish on the front and St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels’ Parish on the other side.

Please see the article “**A new start for the Ellesmere Port & Hooton & Tarporley Parishes:**” above

Our Lady’s Church from Monday 19th July: As you see from the information above from this Monday, 19th July, whilst regulations are eased caution and some safety measures are required.

So at Our Lady’s we are implementing the following:

- ! The wearing of face coverings is strongly recommended
- ! That whilst the ‘one way system’ will end ‘Track & Trace’ Sheets and the QR Code will be available at both entrances; please use one or the other to sign in
- ! Please use the Hand Sanitiser on entry and exit
- ! Please respect peoples’ space. Not everyone, for various reasons, will be comfortable with close contact. Notices will be available for people at each entrance for the people to take with them, and place beside them requesting that they be given space
- ! Collection Baskets will be placed at both entrances and will remain a retiring collection for the time being
- ! As the Bishops of England & Wales ask, the physical sign of peace and Holy Communion from the Chalice will remain suspended for the time being

These will be reviewed as we go along. Please continue to respect and be sensitive to one another as we move into this new time.

Mass Times, Holy Hours and Confessions in Our Lady’s Church: With the easing of some Regulations, some weekday Masses and Holy Hour are now returning to Our Lady’s Church. **Please note that Confessions are now returning to their former time of 11.15am to 11.45am on Saturdays and now back in the Confessional. Please also note that for the immediate future we cannot have face to face Confessions** to maintain the safe

distance for the Priest and Penitent. The Holy Hours are praying for help and guidance over this transition time in Ellesmere Port & Hooton.

First Holy Communion Congratulations: Our Congratulations to the children from Our Lady's & St Bernard's Primary Schools who have made their First Holy Communions over the last three weekends. Thank you to all who took part, and all who helped in the organisation. They were wonderful, prayerful celebrations which had been carried out in the difficulty of COVID-19 Regulations. Everyone's participation made these special occasions that we pray will inspire the children as they move forward in their faith journey.

Our Lady & St Bernard's Future thoughts: This is the note we shared the other week.

When the Pandemic first lockdown started we thought it would only be a few weeks or so, and then we could pick up again 'where we left off' so to speak. Now, some 15 or so months later, it is evident we cannot.

I had been confident before, and was saying regularly, that reopening St Bernard's for Mass would come. As the months moved on, it became clear to many of us, that we were moving into a totally new situation. Parishes all across our Diocese, and indeed in the wider Church are now considering how to move forward into a new world as we adapt to the changes brought about by having to cope with the Pandemic.

We here in Our Lady & St Bernard's have been asked to consider our Mass Times and locations. After consideration I suggest the following:

During the week the building used for Mass at St Bernard's becomes St Bernard's pre-school 'Little Bears'. After Mass we would put the chairs away, and early on Monday Morning the School Caretaker would set up the building for 'Little Bears'. On Friday Evening the Caretaker would put away the 'Little Bears' equipment and set the building up for Mass.

In the time before the Pandemic this was fine, but now even if restrictions are lifted, there would have to be stronger preventative measures put in place, which would require almost professional cleaning on Friday evening and then again on Sunday. This would not be feasible for us.

With numbers dwindling at St Bernard's Church, even before the Pandemic, several people who came regularly to the St Bernard's Mass had been saying that they felt, in the long term, when changes in the area had to be made, that the St Bernard's Sunday Mass would not be able to continue.

It was suggested to me that as we had made the move already due to the Pandemic, that now was the time to make the change and move the Mass to Our Lady's. It was suggested that it would almost be 'cruel' to restart the St Bernard's Mass now, only to have to stop it two or three years down the line. The suggestion was that now we have moved the Mass to Our Lady's during the Pandemic period, let us make the final move now and keep the earlier Mass at Our Lady's.

We know that St Bernard's is the only Christian Church on the Stanney Estate. We suggest that this presence be upheld by the celebration of Mass from time to time in the week at St Bernard's School. Also during the week St Bernard's Church is 'Little Bears' pre-school and the Sanctuary area is closed off by the screens. Often this area was used in the week by St Bernard's School as a kind of 'School Chapel' and I know that St Bernard's School would wish to maintain this, so the 'Sacred Space' in St Bernard's would continue.

As we all know when the restrictions are lifted COVID-19 and its variants will not magically go away; we are going to have to learn to live with it, and adapt.

The story of St Bernard's Church and its vast contribution have, and will continue to make a difference. Without the support, input and energy from the St Bernard's Community our Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Bernard of Clairvaux could not have managed through this time. The name of 'St Bernard of Clairvaux

will continue to be part of our whole Parish, and indeed of our whole Ellesmere Port Pastoral Area as we move into the challenge of these new times.

Nobody wants any place of worship to close, and St Bernard's has so many grateful memories; these help and encourage us to move forward. The building of St Bernard's Church, that has served as a sign of Christ for so long, will continue, keeping it's 'Sacred Space' being a building for St Bernard's School and continuing in that way still to be that sign of Christ among us today.

St Bernard's building would not be closing, but with the Sunday Mass now moving to Our Lady's, it would be taking to serving the Catholic and wider community by building on its already existing role as a pre-school.

When the Pandemic Regulations are eased it is proposed that the Masses at Our Lady's be:

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass for the Sunday now be at 6.00pm

Sunday Morning Mass at Our Lady's to be at 9.00am

Sunday Morning Mass at Our Lady's at 11.00am

All being well, we would be able to have Tea & Coffee after each of these Masses.

These would come into effect when the Pandemic Regulations are lifted; for the time being we will continue the present temporary times we are following.

As always, our concern is our service of one another. It will only be after Pandemic Regulations are eased off that we will know what the situation is with some parishioners, and we will seek to make sure no one is forgotten.

The conclusion of the Sunday Mass at St Bernard's is very emotional; there are no ideal times to make these changes. However, as has been pointed out to me, as the change has on one level already happened, it is the time to move forward; it is a time to grow in a new way. Our worship, prayer and service together has already enriched us, and trusting in God, we will seek to grow ever stronger as the living sign of the Gospel of Jesus among us.

Thank you for those who have been in touch, do please get in touch with me if you have any concerns or questions.

Thank you for the responses and comments received I will now recommend to Bishop Mark that we adopt the course of action described above.

Prayers for the Sick: Please pray for Mark Wilson who has asked our Prayers

Standing Order and Direct Debit information: Please contact the Parish Office on: 0151 355 1255 for more information on how to set this up.

[St Thomas Becket Tarporley Information](#)

Welcome if you are joining us from St Thomas Becket Parish in Tarporley.

Please see the article "**[A new start for the Ellesmere Port & Hooton & Tarporley Parishes:](#)**" above

St Thomas Becket Church from Monday 19th July: As you see from the information above from this Monday, 19th July, whilst regulations are eased caution and some safety measures are required.

So at St Thomas' we are implementing the following:

- ! The wearing of face coverings is requested
- ! The 'Pre Booking' for Mass and the number limit will continue until the end of July
- ! Please use the Hand Sanitiser on entry and exit
- ! As the Bishops of England & Wales ask, the physical sign of peace and Holy Communion from the Chalice will remain suspended for the time being
- ! In August the 'Pre Booking' will end but people will still be asked to keep face coverings and respect one another's space

These will be reviewed as we go along. Please continue to respect and be sensitive to one another as we move into this new time.

Mass at St Thomas Becket during the present COVID-19 Regulations: Please continue to call: 01829 732511 to book a place for Mass. Please continue to follow the guidance of Father Joe and the Stewards.

The Mass details for the coming week are:

Sunday 18th July (The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 11.00am Mass in St Thomas Becket Church: Parishioners **(Pre-Booked People Only)**

Sunday 25th July (The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

– 11.00am Mass in St Thomas Becket Church: Parishioners **(Pre-Booked People Only)**

We continue to pray for one another during this time.

Below, I'm leaving in the listing of the Websites for the neighbouring Chester Parishes with information of when they might be open for Private Prayer and the Celebration of Mass in case this is help to you:

- ! **St Werburgh's, Chester:** www.stwerburghchester.co.uk
- ! **St Francis, Chester:** www.stfrancischester.co.uk
- ! **St Columba & St Theresa, Chester:** www.stcolumbachester.wordpress.com
- ! **St Clare's, Lache, Chester:** www.stclares.co.uk