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7th July, 2020.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to you to update you with the latest developments regarding the reopening of our church, and the return to public worship. The news is exciting, but for some, is mixed with trepidation. For the last few weeks, All Saints' Church has been open on a Saturday morning, from 10.00am to 12.00midday for personal prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. A goodly number of people have availed themselves of this opportunity.

But now with the relaxation of Government lockdown guidelines we feel that we can finally move towards the recommencement of public worship. The Mass will be celebrated for the first time since lockdown began, in All Saints Church at 10.30am on Sunday, 19th July. This will be a said Mass, without any singing, and will be subject to social distancing measures. Gordon Pullin has very kindly offered to play some reflective music on the organ for us. At this stage we will begin with just the one Mass on a Sunday, with an incremental return to the 9.00am and weekday Masses. The church will remain open for prayer on a Saturday morning.

Although most of you will rejoice at this news, I appreciate that for some of you, being out and about and in the presence of others is still a cause for anxiety. To those of you still shielding for whatever reason, you need to stay at home and keep yourself safe. And to those of you who are currently unsure, there is no pressure to come back to church until you are ready. The decision about whether to return to church is yours alone, and I respect your choice. If you are coming on Sunday 19th, please let me know by telephone, so we can ensure that there is sufficient seating for the numbers expected. When you arrive in Church, please follow the social distancing direction signs and sit where directed by the stewards. Further directions, as well as the order of service, will be found in the service sheets you will find on your chair. Please ensure that you take these home with you after Mass.

The Mass on the 19th marks a return to community worship for us all at All Saints', but things will continue to evolve over the coming weeks, with hopefully a return to singing later in the year, as we and our country slowly returns to normal. I look forward to meeting many of you on the 19th.

With Love and many, many prayers,
Yours,