

Dear Friends,

As you know, my last message was full of high hopes about re-opening our Church for individual prayer on Sunday 21st June from 11am to 1pm and on every Tuesday and Sunday thereafter. Let me give you straightaway the disappointing news that my hopes have proved to be over-optimistic and this is not now going to be possible. However, we are talking simply of a postponement in re-opening and only a temporary set-back.

As you will be all too aware, coronavirus has radically changed how we have to do things in daily life at the present and this applies to churches equally. This is 100 per cent right because Christian communities are about spiritual well-being and physical health – it is the whole person we are concerned with. The situation we currently face means that, before our beautiful church building can be available to us again, a good number of protective measures have to be in place. As a Parish we have made real progress with these precautions but are not completely there yet and I thoroughly endorse the old phrase: “Better safe than sorry”.

I want to emphasise again the wonderful support I am receiving from a number of people and to thank most sincerely those parishioners who have volunteered to act as stewards and in cleaning and disinfecting the church – your offers will be put into practice soon! I also am encouraged by the great interest that has been shown through enquiries we have had as to when the church will be open again.

I feel it important not to lose the momentum of this re-opening initiative but also want to be realistic and so am aiming for a prospective date for Sunday 5th July and will keep you posted as to how this goes. If you are aware of someone who does not have access to the internet and would find the above helpful, then please do share this with them.

In the meantime, let us continue to pray for each other at this important time.

God bless,
Fr David