

RETURN TO THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASSES
ST. CONLETH'S CHURCH & CILL MHUIRE CHURCH, NEWBRIDGE

WELCOME BACK!

We are delighted that the time has come where we can welcome people back into our churches for the public celebration of Mass! This will commence on Monday, June 29th.

The following guidelines have been issued to help people transition back into this new phase of reopening our churches;

- The Bishops have stated that the dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation has been extended for the time being. This means that **if you attend Mass during the week, then your Sunday Obligation is fulfilled.**
Older or more vulnerable people may wish to stay home for the moment and join our Masses via the webcam or Facebook. This is perfectly acceptable. Anyone who has any symptoms that might suggest Covid 19 infection or who has been in recent contact with someone who has the virus **MUST** stay home and follow HSE advice.
- Currently we must practice physical distancing of 2 metres in our churches and so capacity will be much reduced. Stewards will be present to guide people to their seats. If capacity is reached, there is an option of remaining outside the church for Mass as a new public address system has been installed in both churches. Parishioners who are outside may come into the church to receive Holy Communion.
- The Parish Team has decided to offer **evening Mass at 7pm each weekday evening** so that people may attend an evening Mass instead of a weekend Mass. Evening Masses will be at the following times:

St. Conleth's Church: Monday and Tuesday evening at 7pm
Cill Mhuire: Wednesday, Thursday Friday evening at 7pm

- We will return to our **normal full schedule** of weekend Masses from **Saturday July 4th**. Our schedule for Masses will then be as follows:

St. Conleth's Church:
Monday, Tuesday: 9.30am & 7pm.
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.30am
Saturday: 9.30am & 6pm;
Sunday: 8.30am, 11am, 12.30pm & 7pm
Cill Mhuire:
Monday, Tuesday: 10am.
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am & 7pm.
Saturday: 7pm.
Sunday: 10.30am.

- Entry to the Churches will be through the main doors **ONLY**
Exit from the churches will be via any door.

- There will be Stewards at each Mass and parishioners are asked to follow the direction of the stewards to ensure health and safety.
- At Sunday Masses collections will be taken up at the usual times. However, collectors will have baskets on extended poles so as to avoid the passing of baskets between parishioners. If people are fulfilling their Sunday Obligation during the week, they may place their contribution/envelope in the boxes provided at the doors. We continue to encourage parishioners to use our Online facility on our website.
- Hand sanitisers will be in place in the porches for use when entering and leaving the churches.
- Mass booklets cannot be used during the time of restriction.
- Toilet facilities will **NOT** be available except in the case of emergency.
- Holy Communion **MUST** be taken in the hand.
- There will be 2 or 3 Communion Stations in each church; parishioners are asked to practice physical distancing while going forward for Communion and to follow any direction from the stewards.
- When leaving the churches, parishioners are asked to take their time and not crowd the doorways.
- We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in the Adoration Chapel. A system will be in place to ensure physical distancing.

I wish to assure you that we have introduced many measures to ensure the safe return of our parishioners. Please feel free to contact us with any queries you may have. Since this is a very new experience for us all, the above measures may be changed/tweaked as the weeks progress.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all our staff, volunteers and ministers for their generous efforts over this time of transition. Without this huge effort, none of the above would be possible.

Warm regards,

Fr. Paul Dempsey PP