

St. Cadoc's Catholic Church

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Dear Parishioner,

COVID-19 PROPOSAL FOR EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

The past 16 months have been long and difficult for all of us in so many ways; it has been stressful, emotional and at times mentally challenging. In the early months of the pandemic it was thought that the virus would be managed quickly and our lives would return to normal, enjoying the things we love to do. On the contrary, our lives have been controlled by a deadly virus and our freedom of movement seriously restricted.

We are slowly beginning to take control of our lives again, albeit having to adjust our lifestyle to live 'the new norm' with the ever-present virus that is expected to remain with us for a long time to come. We must not become too complacent! It is important that we continue to be vigilant and do all that is necessary to keep each other safe. Fortunately, and thankfully, the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out to give protection to our citizens, giving them confidence and encouragement to live their daily lives more freely. Please, continue to stay safe and keep well.

On Monday 9th August, most of the restrictions we've experienced will be removed. We will move beyond Level 0 when the country meets the "gateway condition"; a time when it is hoped that all over 40's have been vaccinated. This will mean that we can operate without restrictions on physical distancing or caps on numbers. The parish response to these changes will be one of caution and preparation. At some point during the pandemic it was expected that we would need to take a leap of faith and 'open up'. Now is that time!

I propose that we implement the changes on the weekend of 4th/5th September. Meantime, we will embark on a process of consultation with parishioners to seek their opinions on how this can be done in a way that we will feel confident in managing larger numbers and continue to feel safe in coming to church. In the notes that follow, I have shown how I intend to do this, as well as noted the changes that are likely to come about. I welcome your comments and constructive advice by letter or email.

Finally, I ask you, please, to register as a member of the parish using the enclosed form.

Thank you for your cooperation, your support and your understanding throughout the pandemic.

Canon Eddie

PREPARATION FOR UNEASING OF PARISH RESTRICTIONS

In the coming weeks, I will meet with members of the following groups to discuss how and when to resume their duties to the parish. The dates and times for each meeting will be as follows:

Eucharistic Ministers: Monday 9th August at 7.15pm.

Readers: Wednesday 11th August at 7pm.

Altar Servers: Thursday 12th August at 7pm.

Pass-keepers: Monday 16th August at 7.15pm.

Sacristans: Tuesday 17th August 7.00pm.

Parish Pastoral Council: Wednesday 18th August at 7.00pm.

Music Ministry: Thursday 19th August at 7.15pm.

Children's Liturgy: Monday 23rd August 7.15pm.

SVDP: Tuesday 24th August at 7.00pm.

LEVELS FOR CHANGE

Prior to the country moving to 'Beyond Level Zero', the First Minister is expected to give clear and accessible information in preparation for the changes. We will be entering a period where people will make personal judgements, rather than rules set by the Government. At the moment it is unclear exactly how the changes will impact on us as a parish community. Hence, the reason for a cautious approach and the period of consultation with parishioners to agree a strategy for change.

When we move beyond the Levels Framework, almost all restrictions will be removed. The Scottish Government will expect us to observe a set of baseline measures to stop the virus resurging and to protect those who do not have protection from the vaccination. This will mean everyone playing their part by:

- Maintaining good hand hygiene
- Practising respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Wearing face coverings
- Ensuring there is good ventilation
- Continuing to engage with Test and Protect and self-isolate when symptomatic or have tested positive.

These measures will be kept in place only for as long as is necessary and will be reviewed regularly and relaxed, or removed, when it is safe to do so.

RESTRICTIONS FOR NOW

The following restrictions will remain in place for a time yet to be decided:

- Regulations imposed by the Scottish Government.
- The parish hall (Except for the Children's Liturgy and meetings.)
- Use of holy water fonts.
- Use of confessionals.
- Offertory processions.
- Collections (Please continue to make offerings upon entering or leaving church in the boxes provided.)
- Votive candles.
- Communion under one species only.
- No sign of peace.
- Scriptures being read from the Lectern.

GOOD PRACTICE

The following, if not regulated by the Scottish Government will be encouraged:

- Hand sanitising.
- Church cleaning for a time to yet be decided.
- Respect for one's own space.
- Hand sanitising by the priest (and the Eucharistic Ministers) before and after distribution of Holy Communion.

MASS & SACRAMENTS

A new schedule for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments will begin on the weekend of 4/5 September.

Morning Mass: Monday-Friday inclusive at 10am.

Saturday Mass: 4pm & 5.30pm.

Sunday Mass: 10am & 12 Noon.

Holy Day of Obligation: 6.30pm Vigil & 10am.

Baptism: Sunday at 1pm. (Baptism preparation required.)

Reconciliation: Saturday 10.30-11.30am

Marriage: By arrangement. (Marriage preparation required.)

[The day that I generally take off is a Friday. However, funeral liturgies and weddings are permitted on a Friday, if requested. Funeral liturgies can be celebrated on a Saturday morning, if requested.]

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Entrance

- Provide details for Track and Trace. (Recorded in a register for subsequent visits.)
- Choose your seat. (Season Tickets cease to operate.)
- Place your weekly offering in the boxes provided.
- Take the opportunity to pray quietly in preparation for Mass.

Introductory Rites

- Hymn
- Greeting & Welcome
- Introduction
- Penance Rite (If possible, will be sung.)
- Gloria (If possible, will be sung.)
- Collect

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm (If possible, will be sung.)
- Second Reading
- Acclamation will be sung
- Gospel
- Homily
- Profession of Faith - Creed
- Universal Prayer – Intercessions
- Hymn

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Preparation of the Gifts
- Prayer over the Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Sanctus (Sung, if possible.)
- Mystery of Faith (Sung, if possible.)
- Doxology

Communion Rite

- The Lord's Prayer (Sung, if possible.)
- (No sign of Peace)
- Agnus Dei (Sung, if possible)
- Hymn(s)
- Distribution of Holy Communion (Coming forward to the altar, directed by the Pass-keepers.)
- Reception of Holy Communion (Either on the hand or on the tongue)

Concluding Rite

- Collect
- Brief announcements
- Blessing and Commissioning
- Hymn

FUNERAL LITURGIES

- There is no restriction on numbers.
- Instruction and guidelines will be provided for families as and when required to plan and celebrate the Funeral Liturgies of the Church.

WEDDINGS

- There is no restriction on numbers.
- Pre-marriage courses will be encouraged.
- Pre-nuptial enquiries and planning for the wedding will take place 6 months prior to the wedding date.

BAPTISMS

- There is no restriction on numbers.
- With the exception of those dates booked by individual families, all subsequent bookings would mean possibly more than one family.
- Parents will in due course be required to attend a presentation on the meaning and celebration of Baptism.