

PLEASE NOTE The re-opening of churches across the diocese will be very gradual and, in the first instance, will be for private, individual prayer only. When it is safe and practicable to do so, some churches may be open for public worship, including the celebration of Mass, and this will be notified on the diocesan website [here](#)

27/6/20 Bishop Robert has announced the planned re-opening of a further twenty churches for individual prayer - to view them, please [click here](#)

Due to social distancing measures, there will be a limited capacity in each church. Should the maximum capacity of a church be met, a queueing system will be implemented outside the church.

Please [click here](#) to download the diocesan handbook for the reopening of churches.

Please [click here](#) to read the diocesan statement in full.

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- The safety of parishioners, volunteers, staff and clergy is to be of the highest priority.
- As indicated, a very small number of 'pilot' churches will be opened first. The Bishop, in consultation with his Episcopal Council and Partnership Deans, will decide which other churches will subsequently re-open and when.
- Before any church re-opens, a full risk assessment will be carried out on each church by the Diocese to ensure health and safety.
- The Diocese will provide the necessary equipment for a deep clean of the churches and for essential regular cleaning.
- Volunteers will be needed for church cleaning and as stewards to ensure social distancing when the church is open.
- Full compliance with Diocesan health and safety regulations and procedures will be required by clergy, employees and volunteers before a church is re-opened.

- Until further notice, the obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holyday of Obligation and to fulfil Easter Duties is suspended.
- Fr Peter will celebrate Mass without a congregation on Sundays for the People of the Parish and also on weekdays without a congregation as announced in the weekly parish newsletter - see this week's newsletter [here](#).
- Whilst parishioners cannot be physically present for these Masses, they can join in the celebration of Mass by making a Spiritual Communion while the Mass is being celebrated.
- Please note all parish meetings /gatherings are suspended until further notice.
- During this time of trial, our homes have become the centre for daily prayer for many people. Home becomes a 'house church' and daily reflection on the readings for Mass and the Rosary would be two good sources of direction for prayer and reflection. Please see the diocesan website rcdhn.org.uk for further information and resources.
- Live broadcasts of Mass from various locations and at various times can be found at the following website: churchservices.tv