



Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

"... do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand..." Isaiah 41:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are delighted that we are able to plan a return to in-church worship. I am sure we have all missed gathering as a church family to worship together. However, we are glad so many of you have been engaging with and enjoying our online and telephone services. These services are a great way to continue to engage with prayer, God's Word and praise.

Return to in-Church Worship:

Sunday 6th September at 10:30am in St Patrick's Church, Castle Street.

As a vestry and staff team we have agreed that in-church worship shall resume in St Patrick's Church for a weekly Sunday service at 10:30am beginning the 6th September 2020.

As we all look forward to a return to church, there are several factors to be aware of and to consider. We ask for your patience and grace as we, as a church family, consider how to safeguard ourselves and each other as we return to church worship. The following is a list of measures we have put in place in order to return to church worship safely and to follow Executive and central Church guidance.

Prior to Returning to Church

- * **Those who are feeling ill, displaying symptoms of Coronavirus or have been in contact with those who have the virus please refrain from coming to church when the risk of transfer is present.**
- * We ask you to seriously and prayerfully consider whether the time is right for you and/or your family to return to in-church worship. If you fall into any of the vulnerable categories (e.g. age or health related) and have been self-isolating or shielding, please exercise caution in returning to church.

- * We will be operating a booking-in system for those planning to attend our church services. You must book in if you wish to attend Sunday worship in St Patrick's. This will allow us to operate a track and trace system and so that those wishing to come to church can do so safely. To book in, please ring the church office and leave a message with your name, contact number and the number of people booking in with you (i.e. number in your family bubble/household attending). Our booking line is opening Monday – Wednesday 10am-12pm via 02825630741. Please note only phone on the week immediately prior to the Sunday you wish to attend.
- * Please watch our 'Back to Church' video on YouTube and Facebook to give you a feel for what church will look like.

Keeping Each Other Safe as we return to Church

- * We ask that you continue social distancing etiquette at all times. Including making your way to and from your vehicles in the car park.
- * In order to make your return to church as safe as possible the parish has invested in sanitising and temperature equipment and PPE.
- * We have a wonderful team of volunteers who will be in place to guide you to and from your seats. Please follow their guidance at all times.
- * We encourage you to wear a mask at all times.
- * You may bring your own bible, prayer book. Service content will be available on screen and on large print service sheets.

What to expect from a Sunday Service

Covid-19 has impacted all of our lives and has changed how all levels of society operates. It seems that everything is different and, for the foreseeable future, our experience of Church will also be different. There are a few points of 'different-ness' to be aware of as we come to church in these changed times:

- * Please be aware that, unfortunately, due to ongoing social distancing guidelines from Executive and central church governance, it is unlikely that

you will be seated in your usual seat or beside your normal neighbour (unless they are in your family household/bubble);

- * Considering the nature of the virus there will be no congregational singing. However, there will be other forms of congregational participation e.g. saying the Creed together.
- * We encourage you to bring your own books as the usual soft furnishings have to be removed from the church buildings due to the nature of the coronavirus (this includes kneelers, pew covers, books and so on). The service material will be presented on the screen and service sheets will be available if you require them.
- * Freewill Offerings can be given via a retiring collection at the back of church.
- * Children's and youth programmes remain under review. Other church activities also remain under review.
- * Please be aware that the clergy (and, eventually, the wider parish ministry team) will lead the services but will socially distance throughout.
- * This is only phase one of a return to church: a first step in a 'back to church journey' we hope to take in the months to come. In due course further phases will be considered and implemented. We look forward to opening up our sister churches and church buildings for activities as and when that becomes possible.
- * It is our intention to continue our online and telephone services. This will be in the form of a recording of our services in St Patricks. These will be available via YouTube and telephone on Sunday afternoon/evening and will be available until the following Sunday.

Pastoral Ministry in the days to come

Again, pastoral ministry has and will continue to be a little different! What will pastoral ministry look like in the months to come?

- * We are able to host baptisms, weddings and funerals, via arrangement, in St Patrick's only from the beginning of September. This will be possible with restricted numbers (max. of 10/12 people) with social distancing in place.

This is in order to follow Executive and central Church guidelines; to enable a track and trace system; and to properly sanitise the church afterwards.

- * Rev Mark and Rev Emma continue to be available for pastoral support digitally/remotely. Please make use of the Parish contact numbers and emails. Please be aware the parish office remains closed until further notice.
- * Further information regarding pastoral ministry will be provided in due course as Executive and central Church guidance is available.

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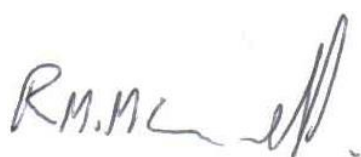
Date for your Diary – Saturday 29th August 2-4pm Freewill Offering Drop Off.

Even though there are a number of things to take into account, we hope you are encouraged by the plans for a return to in-Church worship. These are strange and challenging days but we look forward to making the most of all the means and methods of worshiping together that we can use.

Remember while we may be socially distancing our loving Lord Jesus does not! We can pray, sing and worship anytime and anywhere. God is always on hand to hear and to listen and to respond.

We look forward to being together, socially distanced as the case may be, to worship and praise the Lord in His house.

Yours in love and prayer,



Rev Mark and Rev Emma

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord..." Romans 8: 38-39