

Re-opening Churches for the Public Celebration of Mass and Celebration of Sacraments

Over the last number of weeks, you will have read about some of the regulations, protocols and documentation that must be in place - to protect the safety and health of people, ministers and priests - prior to the re-opening of churches for the public celebration of Mass and Sacraments. Parish Covid-19 Support Teams from Burren, Clonduff, Drumgath and Mayobridge met again this week to discuss the essential preparations required, mindful of diocesan advice to plan for a **slow, cautious approach** to the return of public worship and celebration of the Sacraments.

Sincere thanks to all who volunteered for the essential roles of stewarding and cleaning. Your help and support have made it possible to resume the weekly public celebration of the **Saturday Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Church, Mayobridge, beginning on 25th July at 6:00pm**. Other public Masses in the parish will resume on a gradual basis.

Due to current regulations, the seating capacity in the church must be limited. With adherence to the mandatory 2m social distancing, 24 seats will be available. Each pew will seat either 2 individual parishioners or a family of up to 5 people.

We will operate a 'first come, first in' system and would ask for your patience and understanding if it transpires that maximum capacity has been reached prior to your arrival at the church. **The Sunday obligation to attend Mass continues to be suspended**. Please, be mindful of the risk to yourself and others when deciding whether or not to attend in person. Mass will, as always, continue to be streamed via webcam.

Over the next couple of weeks, training and guidance will be provided for the voluntary stewards and cleaners, as well as existing Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, to ensure that all are aware of safety measures and procedures.

Next weekend, the Parish Covid Support Team will provide further detail on what to expect when the celebration of public Mass resumes.