

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

As we all know Government and Public Health Authorities have given the go-ahead for Churches to plan re-opening for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. The Irish Bishops Conference has produced a document named, *'Framework Document for a Return to the Public Celebration of Mass and the Sacraments'*. This Document is intended to support Dioceses and Parishes in their preparations for a return to public worship. Each Parish has been asked to have in place a *'Covid-19 Support Team'*. In all circumstances the safety and health of people, ministers, and priests must be paramount.

The Parish Covid-19 Support Team must complete a 'checklist' and also consider Government Protocols for Return to Work and the Allianz Insurance Guidelines before even considering a **'phased reopening'** of public worship over the coming weeks. No Church should be opened for public prayer or worship until satisfactory arrangements, as indicated in the Bishop's *'Framework Document'* have been put in place.

The advice received at Diocesan level is for parishes to plan for a **slow, cautious approach** to return of public worship and celebration of the Sacraments and we are doing this in consultation with neighbouring parishes. The Sunday Obligation to attend Mass remains suspended; Webcams will continue to be a vital outreach to those who prefer not to return to gatherings immediately.

Parish Covid-19 Support Teams have begun preparations for the re-opening of our Churches for public worship. The guidelines from Government, the Public Health Agency, the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Diocesan Office must now be met and adhered to, as well as clear compliance with insurance requirements, before it is possible to gather people for the public celebration of Mass. In addition, volunteers for stewarding and cleaning must be in place in advance of this.

**If you, or your organisation are able to help with stewarding or
cleaning please contact:**

BURREN PARISH: Margaret Harty or Maurice Fitzpatrick (07745797920)

MAYOBRIDGE PARISH: Danny Morgan (07929 568392)
danielmorgan876@gmail.com

**The Parish Covid-19 Support Teams will communicate further information
over the coming weeks**