



Marple Bridge
(Hollins Lane)

The Catholic Community Newsletter
for the parish of
St Mary and **The Annunciation**
Marple Bridge New Mills



New Mills
(St Mary's Road)

Fr. Daniel Palmer

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SUNDAY 18TH JULY 2021

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Important changes to Church Procedures from 19th July

- The booking systems will be abolished. The capacity will not be limited, although there should be enough room for people to have space around them.
- The one-way systems will be abolished. But please take care when moving around the church.
- People should check in with the QR code if possible. Otherwise you may check in with your name and contact number at the back of church.
- Although face coverings are no longer compulsory, we request that people continue to use them, unless exempt, considering the rise in cases.
- These measures will be kept under review as things progress.

Times of Holy Mass and Other Services				
Sat 17	1830	MB	Mass	Margaret O'Doherty
Sun 18 16 th Sunday of the Year	0930	NM	Mass	Tom and Catherine Scally
	12noon	MB	Mass	People of the Parish
Wed 21		NM	Serv.	Funeral of Vincent Towse RIP <i>by invitation only</i>
Thu 22 ST MARY MAGDALENE	1030	NM	Mass	Betty Etchells RIP
Sat 24	1830	MB	Mass	Rev Joseph Heald
Sun 25 17 th Sunday of the Year	0930	NM	Mass	People of the Parish
	12noon	MB	Mass	Sean O'Connor RIP
Confessions: generally available after Mass, upon request				

We pray for Vincent Towse, whose funeral takes place this week. We pray for his family and friends at this sad time.

Many thanks indeed to our 'booking agents' who have helped so much. It has been much better to have a person doing it rather than software! At Marple Bridge: Joe Harvey and Jim Howell. At New Mills: Pauline Gavin, and previously Mark Whelan (may he rest in peace).

A lot goes on behind the scenes to keep our churches open safely, including for baptisms and funerals. As well as our stewards, I want to thank Joe Hennigan and Pat Atkinson at New Mills, and Joe Harvey and Jim Howell at Marple Bridge, for all that they do in this regard. And also Fr Kevin who did a lot initially before I took office. Fr Daniel.

Note for Readers: Whoever does the readings at Sunday Mass is welcome to lead the Bidding Prayers. A copy should be on the lectern. It is best to come up towards the end of the Creed, after which the priest's introduction follows.

On Sunday 1st August at 2pm at Marple Bridge, a **Memorial service** will take place to celebrate the life of Maureen Matthews, founder of the eco group MESS. For further details contact Joe Harvey 07723381589. To avoid overcrowding this will be by invitation only. On the same afternoon at 4pm all are invited to the Community Orchard, on the green between Arkwright, Strines and Oldknow Road, for further commemorations.

Online Discussion: Post Lockdown Parish Evangelisation and Catechesis

Bishop Patrick's vision for our diocese is that our parishes will be places of Encounter with the love of God in the Sacraments and the Community, places where we can grow as disciples of Jesus, and places where we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sent out as Missionary Disciples. The lockdown has really stifled opportunities to make this a reality in our parish, so as we begin to leave lockdown, come and share ideas of how our parishes can live this vision through evangelisation and catechesis. We will host an online meeting on **Wednesday 21st July at 7pm** to hear from parishes across the diocese about what they hope to do to reach more people and grow in faith as lockdown comes to an end. We will also look at some resources that we have put together as a department to help parishes with this. Sign up here: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk

Best wishes to all those in our schools as they reach the end of a rather unusual academic year. We give our thanks to the Year 6s who are leaving for all that they have given, and we wish them every blessing for the future.

TO HAVE THE NEWSLETTER E-MAILED contact news@stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

Sunday – it is our Day¹

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.