



Parish News – Website 22 June 2020

Message from The Dean and Sub-Dean

As you probably know by now, the First Minister announced on Friday lunchtime that places of worship may reopen for individual private prayer from Monday, 22 June. This is wonderful news – thanks be to God!

The Church in Wales has issued guidelines on how this should happen, and we are glad to announce that, in compliance with these, we shall be opening from **10am to 3pm daily, from Monday morning**. Our Dean's Verger, Jenny Kitchell, will be overseeing the practical and hygiene arrangements. We have everything from a Perspex screen at the Welcome Desk to hand-sanitizer, with the pews spaced out so they are socially distanced, plenty of clear signs, and a one way system for those who would like to pray at the Shrine.

On Saturday we aim to put up a video on website and social media, to announce the reopening and to let those who are coming for prayer know the arrangements for keeping everyone safe. We'll also have fuller information on the website, on which Dean Sarah has shared this thought:

'Many of us have been longing to return to the Cathedral over recent weeks. We know that Jesus Christ – known as "Emmanuel", which means "God with us" – meets us wherever we happen to be, and has walked with us in all that we have been facing. But somehow, this place soaked in centuries of prayer has a capacity to amplify to us that sense of the presence of the God who is love. And so I know I shall not be alone, in experiencing a sense of relief at returning to the Cathedral. Here I can just sit, and know myself held in the loving gaze of the God who shares in the human condition. This is the place to let down our guard, and lay down the burden of the strains and stresses we have borne, and feel the compassionate touch of Jesus Christ, who understands, and who prays for us and with us. Here we can receive his gift of the peace that the world cannot give, the peace that passes all understanding, where our spirits find rest, and our souls taste our eternal home. It is my great joy to welcome you back.'

So this is the first, wonderful, step on the road back. Please do enjoy spending reflective and prayerful time within the Cathedral in the coming days. And let us pray that this step goes well – for us and more broadly – so that soon we will be able to open more widely for worship, as well as for visitors. At this point the rules are clear that we cannot share any form of public worship, so we shall not be able even to say the offices with others present.

But this is at least at step in the right direction. It has been a tough time; and there is still some way to go, but we are now clearly moving ahead. Wales has the lowest R number in the UK, and the lowest proportion of deaths by quite a margin. It is worth the caution, but now there is scope to begin going forward. We pray too for our local community as we also now have the first moves towards careful reopening for visitors and tourists.

Thank you all for your support on this strange journey – it continues, but we are confident that in due course we will get there, and all be back together again.

In the love of Christ

Dean Sarah and Canon Leigh



Parish News – Website 19 June 2020

Corona Virus - At the time of writing we await this week's announcement from the Welsh Government. The Dean will keep us informed, via this website, of any possible changes affecting our Cathedral. Meanwhile our Head Verger, Jenny Kitchell, has been maintaining a presence in the Cathedral on our behalf.

Weekly Reflections & Worship - Don't forget that the Friday Shrine prayers, led by a Canon, and the Sunday Worship, led by our clergy in turn, are posted each week on YouTube. These can be accessed through the Cathedral website – Worship/Special Services/ YouTube link.
<https://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk/worship/special-services>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCncOKz_Y5XSh4CO9aR6qEnQ

Visit - If you would like a socially distanced visit from Canon Leigh in your garden (weather permitting!) or just over your garden wall - please contact him by email on subdean@stdavidscathedral.org.uk or by phone 01437 720456 and leave a message, alternatively, if you are part of the WhatsApp Parish Support Group, then you can also contact him via that. To be part of the WhatsApp group, you need to have a mobile phone, please contact Canon Leigh via the number above with you mobile and he will add you to the group.

Foodbank – As the weeks go by the need for the Foodpod is as great as ever. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and please continue to do so. The drop-off points are:-
CK Supermarket, St Davids
Ocean Haze, St Davids
Brecon House, Cathedral Close, St Davids

Ordination – Please continue to pray for our 2 Minor Canons, Rev'd Gillian and Rev'd Sophie, both Deacons to be ordained as Priests, as they still wait for news as to when their Ordination will take place.

Weekly envelopes – Jo Rose will shortly be contacting those with weekly envelopes with further advice as to how they can donate at this stage.

Milk bottle tops – Do not forget to continue saving your plastic bottle tops! The Diocese is still planning to recycle these in the future.