

St Andrew's Church

Welcome back

'Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth'

Dear Parishioner,

After a prolonged period of time without public Mass, we welcome the news that Mass can once again be celebrated in parishes, subject to some necessary conditions being met.

Although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues to be suspended, this gives the opportunity for those who wish, to attend Mass again.

In St Andrew's, Sunday Mass will recommence on the weekend 18th /19th July, with 5pm Vigil, 10am & 12 noon Masses.

For weeks, we have been preparing for welcoming you back and there are some important changes for coming to church, which are set out below. In particular, social distancing guidelines means that seating capacity in the church is much reduced, so for the moment, a booking system is required.

I know that these changes, which are all very necessary, may sound a bit overwhelming, but I do believe that once we get settled in, our Masses will still be prayerful and uplifting.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous offerings, which greatly support the parish. In particular your offerings and donations over the past four months when there has been no Sunday collection, and all your standing order offerings, all of which have helped keep us afloat.

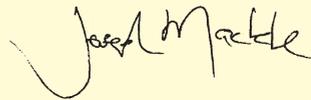
All donations to the St Andrew's Development Fund to help us with the £8,000 cost of our live stream system including TVs, as well as approximately £3,000 for cleaning and hygiene equipment costs, will be gratefully received. You'll see from our website that we now have a PayPal account donate button. I do appreciate that many people will be facing financial pressure in these difficult times, so, please, only donate if you are in a position to do so.

Many thanks also to our volunteers whose help has enabled us to reopen our church, and to you all for your continued patience and support during these very difficult times.

I very much look forward to welcoming you back to Mass when you are able to come along - it will be good to see you again. For those unable to return at the moment, I hope that having our Sunday 10am Mass live streamed will be of some help.

Take care.

Stay Safe. Pray safe.



Booking system

As seating capacity in the church is much reduced due to current social distancing guidelines and a limit of 50 people has been set by the Archdiocese, Mass will be live streamed and Holy Communion will be available for you in both halls. We have also established an electronic booking system which will avoid the need to turn people away if the church is full.

Before you can book a place at Mass for the first time you need to register on the Parish website - www.standrewsbearsden.co.uk where you will be directed to the online registration booking form.

- Each Sunday you will receive a link to the booking system by email.
- The booking system for Sunday Mass will open on the previous Sunday at 12 noon and will remain available until 12 noon on the Wednesday.
- Each adult in a household will need to book for themselves individually and for their children.
- You will be advised by email on a Thursday morning if your booking has been successful.

The booking system will not operate on a ‘first come first served’ basis - everyone will have the same opportunity to attend Mass over the period where booking is required.

If you don't have the facility to book online, we ask that you arrange for a friend or family member to do this on your behalf.

Arriving at church

As it will take extra time for you to enter the church and to help us safely manage everyone attending, we ask that you please arrive early for Mass. To ensure we comply with all guidelines:

- Please do not come to church if you are displaying any COVID symptoms. This is really important and we would have to close immediately if this was the case;
- You may have to queue outside;
- A Steward will need to check that you have booked for that particular Mass. The Parish must now keep a record of the contact details of everyone who attends church. This is in case the NHS needs the details of someone who attended the church should they become ill and booking lists for Masses will provide us with the necessary details;

- Please sanitise your hands at the station provided before entering and leaving the church or hall;
- You will be escorted to a pew or one of the halls to ensure safe movement around the church and so that we can maximise the number of people who can safely be accommodated.

Please follow the signage now in place and guidance of our stewards and passkeepers to ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.

Only a very limited number of Disabled Badge Holders will be able to park in the church grounds.

Face covering

Face coverings must be worn at all times in church so please bring yours with you. Only children under 5 years of age and anyone with a relevant health condition do not need to wear a face covering.

Use of facilities

Toilets in the church and halls will be available if needed. If you have to use the toilet or baby changing facilities, you will be asked to wipe down surfaces with wipes provided, in line with Archdiocesan guidelines.

Mass

As Mass is to be celebrated in the shortest possible time, you will notice a difference. This is in order to reduce risk of spreading the virus by minimising the length of time we are all participating in a large group. For example, congregational singing will be temporarily discontinued. There will be no Gloria, second reading, intercessions, creed or offertory procession. The homily will be brief. Instead of the collection plate, a basket for offerings will be placed at the door. Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing and you will be asked to leave the church as soon as you have received Holy Communion. If you wish to access Mass through live streaming, please go to the parish website and click on the YouTube channel icon at the advertised time.

Holy Communion

In accordance with the national protocol on Infection Control, it is recommended that Holy Communion be received in the hand only for the moment. Please extend your cupped hand to receive the Host to minimise risk.



After Mass

As the church must be closed and cleaned after each Mass, you will need to leave the Church and grounds right away. Unfortunately, due to current infection control measures in place, neither Mons. Ryan or Fr. Mackle will be available immediately before or after Mass. To speak to a priest, please feel free to either phone or email. With our piety stall remaining closed, please e-mail Annamaria (a.strachan@dunelm.org.uk) for Mass cards and other items.

Private Prayer

St Andrew's will continue to be open for quiet contemplative prayer on Wednesdays from 2pm until 3pm. Attendance will be monitored and this provision will be reviewed.

Weekday Mass

Weekday Mass will recommence on Monday 20th July. Please note that Stewards will be responsible for taking contact details and you are asked to follow their direction at all times.

Funerals

Funeral Masses in the Archdiocese of Glasgow may take place in church with minimal attendance of closest family and friends, up to a maximum of 20 people.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Is available by phoning one of the priests to arrange a time.

Help us to help you stay safe

Please register to use the online booking system at

www.standrewsbearsden.co.uk

Please keep up to date on any changes by looking at

Website www.standrewsbearsden.co.uk

Email- standrew@rcag.org.uk

Tel : 0141 942 4635

www.facebook.com/standrewsbearsden,

Twitter @SBearsden,

For further non-Parish specific information see: www.bcos.org.uk

The parish of St. Andrew, Bearsden is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Glasgow.
A Designated Religious Charity, Number SC018140

