

## Newsletter June 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Alleluia**, The time has finally arrived as we prepare to return to worship in our Churches. It will be our first opportunity as a church community to gather to give thanks:

- To God,
- For those who have guided us through this difficult time.
- And to pray for those whose lives have been affected by the virus.

It will be so good to see you all again and to **welcome** you back to your church. It has been a privilege to bring you services via social media and to connect with you in various ways over the past few months.

### **Thankyou,**

I would like to thank all those who have led and contributed to these services which ranged from the formal to the very informal via zoom.

I would also like to thank all those who have continued to support the parish with their prayers and with their finance.

I would also like to thank the officers of the select vestries and the church wardens for their committment.

Thankyou also to all those who have come together with Rev Phyllis and I to prepare for our return to Church.

Returning to Church will be a gradual process beginning with Tralee, Camp and Dingle on the 5<sup>th</sup> July and then if all goes well, we will return to the normal schedule from the 12<sup>th</sup> July. This will be kept under review.

For the first few Sundays, we will follow Morning Prayer or a Service of the Word.

Thankfully, We are familiar from our forays in the community and from our experience in shops and from media campaigns with what we have to do to keep our selves and others safe from the virus, most important of all is that each of us takes personal responsibility for:

- Hand- washing on leaving home and returning to our homes.
- Hand-sanitizing on entry to church and on leaving Church.

- Social distancing at all times in church and as we gather and leave Church.
- If you have a cold or a cough or sneeze, please hold off attending Church until you are feeling better. This applies to Clergy, Readers and Wardens as well as everyone else.

### **Arriving at Church**

Please come a little earlier than usual to facilitate an ordered and safe filling of the pews. This is one of the times when we may be most at risk of getting close to others - so please be careful to maintain the required physical distance, and avoid congregating in groups. Follow any directions that will be on the posters and that will be given by the Church wardens who will show you to your pew. **Hand sanitisers** will be available in the church porch - please use them. You might want to bring your own, and some disposable tissues to take home when you have used them for appropriate disposal.

**Contact Tracing:** We are obliged to keep a record of those who attend Church for possible tracing - these records will be stored securely and disposed of after the recommended time period.

### **During the Service**

**Seating:** In order to comply with distancing requirements, you may be guided to a pew other than you would normally choose. We have been advised to fill from the front but this will be kept under review. We will learn a lot from our first Sunday together, so please be patient with us. Family members can sit together.

**Hymn Books/ Prayer books:** You are welcome to bring your own prayer books which should not be shared with anyone other than with a family member. A service sheet may be provided which you must bring away with you after the service. We are advised that singing is potentially more likely to spread infection, so for the time being we will listen to recorded music, but again we cannot sing along with it.

**Wearing masks:** It is recommended that masks should be worn wherever possible.

**Children:** Material such as colouring books won't be available for children. You are welcome to bring books to keep young ones happy, These cannot be shared with other Children. Children like to move, However we've been asked to minimise movement if possible.

**Visitors:** New people may wish to come to church to give thanks for safety or recovery. Even though it won't be possible to welcome them as normal, please take the opportunity to make them feel welcome.

**Tea/ coffee:** We won't be able to serve refreshments after church for the moment.

**The collection:** Again, we've been asked not to pass the plate for collections, but to use a retiring collection instead. However, this might be a good time to start a standing order or to move to Electronic Fund Transfer, if you haven't already done so. While we have a long tradition of putting our offering on the plate, It is now becoming more of the norm in many of our churches that parishioners no longer contribute in this way but by the means mentioned above. It has been suggested by some that 'Tap and Go' may be another option in the future. However please feel free to use the traditional method if that suits you best

### **Leaving Church**

We are social beings and we enjoy our times together, so be careful as you leave and please be careful to maintain distance, the Church Wardens will be on hand to guide and advise.