



ST JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

21 JUNE 2020

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We call to mind our needs, assured that God knows and cares for us and every single detail of our lives, right down to each hair on our heads.

For the Church: that we may live in the confident assurance of God's abiding concern and providential care for us, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For a spirit of reverence: that our goals for life may be based on the awareness that all life is a gift from God and should lead us toward an ever-deepening relationship with God, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For the gift of courage: that we may confidently bear witness to our values and principles even in times of opposition and resistance from the culture around us, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For all fathers and those who have shown us a father's love: that God will grant them good health, guide them in being good examples, and help them to be a source of encouragement to their children, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For all who are afraid of death: that God free their hearts from fear, help them to experience God's unconditional love for them, and give them a deep confidence that God will wipe away every tear and give them fullness of life, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For all who have been wounded by gossip: that their reputations may be restored and their spirits healed, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For all who are struggling financially: that God will calm their hearts, guide them to the resources they need, and open the hearts of many to accompany them, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For God's creation: that God will guide us in protecting the air, land, and water that we share so that all may benefit from God's gifts, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For all who are researching treatments and vaccines for dangerous illnesses: that God will guide and inspire their work so that life can be preserved, **let us pray to the Lord.**

For a listening spirit: that protestors, civic leaders, co-workers, neighbours, parishioners and family members may listen more intently and understand more fully the pains, values, and goals of one another, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Loving God, may your great care and compassion for your people inspire us to be generous with our care and compassion for all those in need. We make this prayer and all our prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

COMMITMENT

When we say to people, 'I will pray for you,' we make a very important commitment. The sad thing is that this remark often remains nothing but a well-meant expression of concern.

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH OF ST JOSEPH

As you will all be aware, the Scottish Government announced on Thursday that churches can re-open for private prayer under strict conditions. The Covid-19 virus has not gone away and everything that we do must be done carefully to ensure that we do not put anyone in greater danger of contracting the disease when they come to the church.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE ADHERES TO THE RULES WHEN IN OR AROUND THE CHURCH AS WE RELY ON EACH PERSON DOING THE RIGHT THING TO KEEP ALL OF US SAFE. PLEASE PLAY YOUR FULL PART.

There will be a lot of information on the webpages for you to look at and to prepare you for the changes that you will see when you first visit St Joseph's again. You need to be clear about what you will need to do before you arrive and during your visit.

We, at the church, also require your support and assistance for if we are not able to open safely, we will not be able to open at all. This will require many of you to volunteer to assist with stewarding, guiding and communicating with those coming for private prayer AND further volunteers to clean and sanitise the church after each and every prayer hour in preparation for the next opening. The number of opening hours is solely dependent on having sufficient voluntary help and without this help, we will not open.

There is detailed information on how you can volunteer in the 'Opening our Church' section.

The current plan is to open the church next Sunday 28 June for 4 separate hours for private prayer. These hours will be 11.00 to 12.00, 13.00 to 14.00, 15.00 to 16.00 and 17.00 to 18.00. The streamed Mass will continue as usual starting at 10.00 until 10.45, and no parishioners are allowed into the church at that time. The church will open for private prayer at 11.00.

The number allowed into the church will be about 20% of normal capacity as the 2-metre distancing rule must be maintained.

The first 2 hours – 11.00 and 13.00 – will be for Scottish parishioners and the second 2 hours – 15.00 and 17.00 – will be for Polish parishioners. A booking system for the first hour for each group will be trialled for the 28 June. The second hour will be on a first come basis.

Remember that space is very limited and once full, no one else can be accommodated even if people leave within the hour as the seating used has to be sanitised before re-use.

Please now carefully read all the detailed information on the St Joseph's website under 'Opening our Church' section. Please help directly if you can and are able and ensure that you stick to the Government guidelines and the church guidelines and rules.

STAY SAFE

PROTECT OTHERS

SAVE LIVES