

## **Beginning the process of Church re-opening for Private Prayer**

As you may now be aware the Executive has announced that as part of phase one of the lifting of restrictions Churches can be re-opened for private prayer subject to Social Distancing being enforced and Cleaning / Sanitiser measures being in place. As I mentioned at the weekend I will not rush into this until the Diocese gives the green light and all of those necessary measures are in place. A date and opening times for re-opening will be announced in due course. The following preparations are being made

- 1) A sanitising station for the entrance porch of each church is being purchased. Until they arrive sanitiser gel will be placed on a table in each porch.
- 2) Social distancing (6 feet away from another person not of your household) will be in force with poster and other reminders.
- 3) A one-way system will operate. Entrance in both churches will be through the main porch and exit via the side porch. A door will be kept open at all times to avoid the need to open and close doors.
- 4) Two rows near the front of the churches on each side will be set aside for private prayer. Sanitising spray will be available for the benches for use before and after your visit.
- 5) Sanitiser spray will also be on the table at candelabra in St. Patrick's Church to be used on lighter before and after each use.
- 6) Opening days and times will be dependent on availability of cleaners for the church. I am seeking volunteers under the age of 70 for this task. A rota will be prepared and the cleaning will be twice a day Morning and Evening. Gloves, masks and sanitiser spray will be used. Only the 2 benches on each side being used, door handles and end of seats will need to be cleaned. If you are interested in helping please contact Fr. Gallagher at (028) 8164 8474 or by Messenger to Parish or Personal Facebook Page or Maria Bradley at (028) 8164 8357 or WhatsApp 07768 395 038.

As mentioned earlier the times and dates of church opening will depend especially on our ability to ensure the requisite cleaning takes place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Please pray that our plans run smoothly.

*Fr Eddie Gallagher PP*