

15th June 2020

Greetings friends. This week we are being allowed to open the church for private prayer. This means that we not able to hold services yet but that we may open to allow individuals or small family groups to come to the church for their own time of prayer. During these times there must be someone in attendance to make sure that safety and health rules are adhered to.

By the end of today I shall have completed the necessary Risk Assessment and shall be offering people the opportunity to come to church for prayer from Wednesday of this week. However, we must make sure that this is done safely and in an orderly manner. I propose, therefore, to operate an appointment system whereby people contact me to arrange a time for me to open the church for them. This will mean that we do not have to find volunteers to sit in the church on the off chance of someone coming in and that we may control the numbers more easily, making it safer for all concerned and easier to implement the necessary social distancing and cleaning of the church after a visit.

I don't envisage a large influx of people, as we're not a church that is normally open during the week except for services, however, it may be that you or someone you know has a particular desire to come and pray at the church and I would like to make that possible.

So please feel free to keep this information in mind and share it with others who may be interested.

I know it's only a small step but it is an improvement on the recent situation, let's hope and pray that it won't be too long before we are able to offer more.

And finally...A Jesuit and a Carmelite were good friends and heavy smokers who found it tough to pray for long periods without stopping prayer to have a cigarette. So they decided to ask their superiors for permission to smoke. The next time they met, the Jesuit was upset. He said to his friend, "I asked for permission to smoke while praying, and was told no." The Carmelite replied, "I asked if I could pray while I smoke. He said "Of course.""

Tom

Sent by Canon Tom Page
Vicar: Ascension with All Saints
Chelmsford
(AwAS)