

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020



**Dear Parishioners**

As you will have heard the Government and the Diocese have made plans for the reopening of our churches – and the good news is that we are allowed to open as early as next **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June** for private, silent prayers ONLY – which we will only be able to do if the following terms have been met. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for confirmation of our opening date.

We have been asked to complete a Risk Assessment, which involves a number of things:

- Creating teams of volunteer stewards and cleaners.
- Purchasing PPE, disinfectant, disposable cloths and hand gel.
- Closing parts of the church including the toilets, confessional and sacristy.
- Establishing how many people can be inside the church at the same time as observing the two metre social distancing rule.
- Getting the church cleaned between sessions.
- Laying out signs and posters to help people understand where they are allowed to go.

**It is our intention to open St Bernadette's for two hours in the morning on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays**, which we hope you will be able to make full use of for private prayer. The stewards will be there to check that you keep the mandatory two metres apart and may also have to ask to you leave if a queue starts to build up outside. **Please be kind to them!**

If anyone would like to volunteer to be a steward/cleaner please send your name and contact details to [hillington@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hillington@rcdow.org.uk), or leave a message on 01895 234577 xFr Matthew or Jane. There will be plenty of instructions and equipment to help you in this task. **Please note that we cannot ask those of you over 70 or with underlying health conditions to volunteer for obvious reasons.**

We look forward to seeing you all again as we manage this transisiton back to “normal” in this joyous, but anxious, time.

Thank you,  
**Fr. Matthew**