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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

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<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/>

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<https://www.instagram.com/roystoncatholic>

Mass this Sunday: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 18th July 2021

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 23:1-6 The Lord himself will look after his people as he brings them back from exile.

Ephesians 2:13-18 Christ Jesus is the peace between all peoples, making us one in his Spirit.

Mark 6:30-34 Jesus takes pity on the people for they are like sheep without a shepherd.

Mass This Week

Saturday 17th 6:30pm

Sunday 18th 9:00am

10:30am

Intention

In Thanksgiving (GS)

Susan Furey (RIP)

For Our Parishioners

Tuesday 20th 7:30pm

Weekday

South Africa

Wednesday 21st 9:15am

Weekday

For Teachers

Thursday 22nd 9:15am

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Tigray

Friday 23rd 9:15am

ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

Lebanon

Please book in for these Sunday masses at parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events

Volunteers Your willingness to help has been key in enabling us to open and worship together safely. If you can help please volunteer at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iQtla2N9UxRBqDiABO2uL-Sei4XX8uj9HkGfRN2cd5c/edit?usp=sharing> or sign up on the paper copy in the Sacristy

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for Afghanistan

Sacrament of Reconciliation is still by appointment only

Throughout the pandemic we have noted that there are three sources of decision making: national Government, the Bishops' Conference and our own local responses. All three of these levels have been active this week. Where we will be after July 19th is, as the Government has announced, to significantly move "away from centralised detailed regulation to prudent local judgements" which seek to be as open as we can be whilst taking account of the risks in our neighbourhoods and the risks to our neighbours.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our open meeting on Wednesday to discuss our next steps. At that time we had not heard from the

Bishops' Conference; it is heartening to see that our local discussions and the Bishops' guidelines, which have now been issued, were remarkably close. The full statement from the Bishops' Conference is on the notice board in the Martyrs' Chapel, as is a further statement expressing the hope that the Sunday Obligation will be restored by Advent Sunday by which time we hope everybody will feel safe to return to attending mass. The Bishops' guidelines ask us to continue to mitigate against the transmission of the virus. Amongst other things "face coverings are strongly recommended to be worn by those in church".

The legally enforceable national restrictions we have experienced for the last 15-18 months have been lifted. However, the pandemic is still with us. The advice we have heard is to relax our protocols cautiously and gradually.

We will therefore stop using the online booking-in system from next weekend (24th/25th July). However, we would encourage those who can to use the displayed QR code for the NHS app.

The '1m+ rule', and the limits that forced on our capacity, will go. However, the expectation is that we will not be crowded during the holiday months.

We will no longer have stewards booking us in and guiding us in Church. However, we will keep this under review and re-introduce them if appropriate.

We will gradually introduce a little more singing into our worship, particularly of the ordinary of the mass and propers and such things as the Alleluia. However, this will not include hymns and the hymn books will not yet come back.

As well as these relaxations, we do intend to maintain some of our current protocols:

- we will continue to maximise ventilation by keeping the church doors open;
- we will continue our online provision for those not able to be onsite;
- hand sanitiser will continue to be available and its use encouraged;
- whilst respecting individual choices and exemptions we strongly encourage the

continued use of face coverings to protect each other indoors;

- we will continue not to have the physical sign of peace (although members of household bubbles may touch each other!)
- At the present time we will continue to have the dialogue before communion ('The Body of Christ **Amen**') from our benches and then receive communion in silence
- we will continue to have communion in one kind and on the hand and encourage people to continue the practice of coming up for communion bench by bench;
- we will retain the cleaning protocols we have been following.
- we will continue to have the online volunteers rota: please sign up to help if you are able over the summer at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Beul0qZY0B2nJxS8hEQhkYpRhMGEpkiPqmOUblVuCIQ/edit?usp=sharing>

It remains important that we look after each other and especially the vulnerable. We would ask that anyone who does have symptoms, a positive test or had been in close contact with someone with a positive test both look after themselves and to please stay at home to protect others.

All of these things will be kept under review and we shall reconsider them as necessary and we have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday September 1st.

Make Lunch update

First of all, a huge THANK YOU to all those who have donated, volunteered or helped out with Make Lunch in any way. Make Lunch would not be here without your support. During covid you have helped Make Lunch Royston serve 2503 meals in total.

We are very excited to be busy planning the summer holiday, as we are finally now able to re-open our drop-in centre and welcome our families in person once again. Hurrah!

However, we do still need some volunteers to help us with delivering these sessions. We will be opening every Monday and Thursday during the summer holiday in the Parish Hall, except during the last week, where we will open on the Tuesday following the bank holiday. (First session Mon 26th July, last session Tues 31st Aug)

We need two teams for each session:

Kitchen team 9:30am to 12:30pm Duties: Assist the Kitchen Leader with the preparation of the main meal; washing/chopping/preparing ingredients and other cooking activities, serving the meal to families. No kitchen experience necessary.

Session team 11:00am to 2:00pm Duties: Set up main room with tables chairs, crafts and games, welcome families, serve tea/coffee, assist with crafts and games, cleaning up after the session

If you would like to help us either by donating or as a volunteer and can sign up for one or more of these sessions please contact Louise Bradley who is the Make Lunch Administrator on Tel: 07742 927160 or Email: makelunch@tlcroyston.org.uk. You don't need to do lots of sessions, even helping out for one session makes a huge difference.

Many thanks for your continued support.