

The Churches of St John & St Patrick

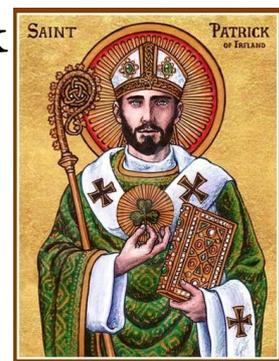
servicing the Parish of St William

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Facebook pages: 'St Patrick's Catholic Church Wigan'
'St John's RC Church, Standishgate, Wigan'



Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Following the Prime Minister's statement about churches the other day, the Archbishop has given permission for the re-opening of churches for Masses attended by a limited number, after Monday, 6th July.

This is great news but the Archbishop has asked us to emphasise that things will not be as normal. It's intended that if a parish has two churches, only one should be opened at this time. The church designated will only be re-opened once it has been made ready. It's unlikely that we will be ready to open on the 6th. The requirements needed to keep us all safe are quite challenging and will take some getting used to.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday has not yet been restored. It wouldn't be possible to fit all those who usually attend St John's and St Patrick's in one church on Sunday with the present number of Masses and sitting at a safe distance. You may attend Mass any day of the week.

I'm still re-reading the guidelines and will be seeking advice, not least about how we select the limited number who will be able to attend. First come, first served? A Lottery? I feel a money-spinner coming on.

I thought it important to say something to you at this stage but should have more information for you later next week. Please keep your eye on our Facebook pages, website and next Sunday's streamed Mass.

In the meantime St John's will be open for private prayer once again next week, at the advertised times.

God bless you,

Father O'Shea