

The Churches of St John & St Patrick

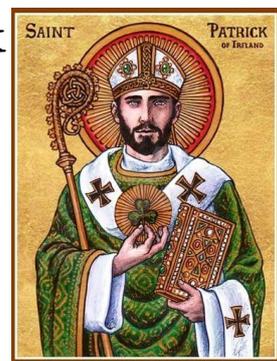
servicing the Parish of St William

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Saturday 27th June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In my previous message I said that we would soon be re-opening one of our churches for Mass and other services.

You know that St John's has been without a boiler since last October. Parishioners have been immensely patient, especially during the cold Winter months. The permissions needed for the adjustments to a Grade II Listed Building, necessary to enable us to install a new boiler, did come through earlier in the year but then came the Lockdown. Now things are moving again and the work is going to start. On Monday, 6th July! The only viable access to the boiler room is via the church, which means that St John's will have to close for 6-8 weeks. So the decision about which church at present re-opens for Mass has been taken out of our hands, by a boiler.

St Patrick's won't be ready on the 6th but we will open soon and all Masses and other services will take place there for the time being. (As of course they did at St John's last year when work was being done at St Patrick's.) We're going to post on our Facebook pages and on the parish website the directives that we have received from the Archbishop, so that you'll have an idea what to expect when you come to Mass. It's an interesting read!

You'll see that we need volunteer stewards to welcome and direct people and to sanitise the benches after each Mass/service. Those of you who have been to St John's for the times of private prayer this week have seen what that entails. It would be wonderful if at least some of those who volunteered to help at St John's now volunteered to help at St Patrick's. We'll have a meeting soon in church to go through things together. Watch this space.

All this feels positively surreal. But we've survived things so far and we're not going to fail now. In God we trust and on we go!

God bless you,

Father O'Shea