



St. Anthony's RC Church

Served by the Order of Augustinian Recollects (O.A.R.)

Mill Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1AF. Tel: 01404 812372.

Parish Priest: Rev Frank Umendia O.A.R. St Rita's Centre, Ottery Moor Lane, Honiton, EX14 1AP. Email: fjuo8245@yahoo.com

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Deacon: Rev John Park. Tel: 01404 812622.

Web site: <http://www.catholicchurchottery.org.uk> (on hold for now)

Email: ottery@prcdtr.org.uk

Exeter Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Kieran Kirby Tel: 01392 272815

Exeter Hospital Chaplaincy: 01392 402024

Sunday Masses: Saturday 6.00pm. Sunday 9.30am.

HOLY DAYS Masses at 9.30 am & 7.00pm. **Weekday Masses** 9.30am. **Morning prayer:** Mon to Sat 9.15am.

Confessions: after the daily 9.30am Mass (Otherwise on request)

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Paul Doyle Mobile 07971 936734 Email: paul.doyle@icloud.com

and Deborah Stuart. 07973 153675 Email: dstuart9753@gmail.com

Items for Newsletter by 12 noon each Wednesday to: ottery@prcdtr.org.uk

Cheques to be made payable to "PRCDTR Ottery St Mary RC Parish".

Direct payments: Sort Code 53-50-55. Ac. No. 05126126. NatWest Bank, Honiton.

Ottery St Mary RC Parish is part of Plymouth Diocese: Registered Charity 213227.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalter 2

Year A

Church accident repairs have been almost completed; the damaged stained-glass window will be in place shortly. The next step forward will be to build the outside porch and accommodate the repaired section of the church to move there from the hall so that we can do our church building development without interfering sometime in the near future.

The good news is that the form of tender and a full set of drawings for the Church Porch Extension and the existing Nave work has been issued by our building Surveyor for pricing by Arque Builders of Crediton. We should hear from them before 12noon Tuesday 18th August 2020.

Masks - as you know, face coverings are now mandatory in shops, as well as on public transport. People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as church. However, wearing a mask in church is not mandatory; we are continuing to keep to 2m social distancing within the church at all times.

The Pope's prayer for August: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families. See also <http://thepopevideo.org/>

Following the recent Government announcement that we can now hold acts of public worship.

Firstly, and most importantly, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended – if you do not feel safe coming to Mass please stay at home and don't worry – there is absolutely no requirement for you to attend Mass at all.

Also, we cannot stress enough that this is not a return to normal, and there are several changes you need to be aware of. Please take the time to read the below carefully so that you are prepared for your visit to church.

The number of Masses we can offer each week is as follows: Mon. to Sat. at 9.30am; Sat. at 6.00pm and Sunday at 9.30am.

In order to maintain social distancing at 2m, the church has a limited capacity of 11 households at any one time. Once this limit has been reached, the stewards are unable to admit any more people. We are grateful in advance for your understanding on this – it is entirely necessary in order to keep everybody safe.

Obviously, with a capacity of only 11 households, there is no way we can accommodate everyone at every Mass. We would therefore encourage you, as an act of generosity, to please come to Mass on one of the weekdays if you are able, rather than on the weekend. This will help ensure that there is space for those who cannot attend Mass during the week to attend at the weekend. Remember, the continued suspension of the Sunday obligation means that at the moment 'all Masses are equal', so please think of others when choosing which Mass you attend each week.

When you enter the church for Mass, you will notice that the layout has been changed in order to create a one-way system – please go straight to a place available and remain there until the end of Mass. You will find a copy of the Newsletter and a piece of paper to give your contact details to a steward, for track and trace purposes.

The church toilet is supposed to be closed and cannot be used.

During Mass, there is to be no singing, no Children's Liturgy, no Prayers of the Faithful, no sign of peace and no offertory procession. There will be baskets available on your way into and out of church for you to make your offering if you wish; on the other hand you might like to make your donations by standing order.

When it comes to communion, the communicants will stand and Fr Frank will go around the church, to give communion in the hand only. Please present your hands palm upwards, one on top of the other, as flat as possible, and with arms extended at full stretch, in order to maximise the distance between you and Fr Frank.

Thank you for reading this carefully. We appreciate there's a lot to get through and a lot to take in, but hopefully the information will help you to make informed decisions about if and when you attend Mass, and help you feel more prepared for when you do.

Finally, please note that all of the above is subject to change at any time as new guidelines are published and further measures are imposed or relaxed. We'll always do our best to update you in a timely fashion: keep an eye on the newsletter.

Thank you all once again for your patience and co-operation as we continue our journey through this strange time together.

Track and Trace (from Bishop Mark)

There was also a discussion of what is in the Government guidance regarding Track and Trace. Some of you have noted this already, in writing to me. The officials said that whilst this is not obligatory, a best endeavours approach should be adopted to places of worship ensuring that any process is workable, proportionate and manageable. In our Diocese, I have asked that all churches keep Track and Trace in place. The main rationale for that, is that if there is a local outbreak, then if Track and Trace is in place, churches will only have to close for about 72 Hours, whilst contacts are made and a deep clean of the Church takes place. If Track and Trace is not in place, then the Church would probably be closed for longer, and an announcement/ public communication made that everybody who had attended the Church at the same time as the person with a positive result, would have to self-isolate for 14 days. This would include the priest, who would then, of course, be out of action for those two weeks. The Church would probably be closed for much longer than the 72 hours, when Track and Trace is in place, not least, because the stewards, nor the priest, would be available to facilitate public worship, or even personal prayer.

The decisions about what happens in the event of a local outbreak are made by Public Health England, and clearly depend on what safeguards and protocols a local Church has in place. It is clear, that the more robust these are, in terms of Track and Trace, the less disruption to the provision of Mass is going to be. I know Track and Trace requires more work, but it does safeguard a local Church more, in the event of local outbreaks of Covid-19 and when additional restrictions are applied locally. I recognise that some individuals may object to leaving their details, for Track and Trace, as a matter of their civil liberty. I understand that. But perhaps, what I have said above could be shared with them, so they understand this is a way of ensuring our churches remain open and priests can continue to serve in them. If these individuals refuse, one cannot force them to leave their details, but in doing so they potentially put their local parish Church at risk of being closed, and everyone who was in it with them, at risk of having to self-isolate for 14 days.....Hopefully, it will never come to this in terms of local outbreaks....

