



St Theresa's Presbytery  
High Lane  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
CM24 8LQ

Monday 8 June 2020

Dear Friends

We have finally received the good news that we can open for private prayer from next Monday, 15 June. In announcing this good news Cardinal Nichols stated "This is a first, measured step in restoring the more normal practice of our faith and will be welcomed by so many, who have waited with great patience since 23 March when our churches were closed, by Government decision, as part of the fight against this pandemic, I thank everyone for that patience. It is important that every care is taken to ensure that the guidance given for this limited opening is fully observed, not least by those entering our churches. Our preparation is taking place with thoroughness. Visiting a church for individual prayer, benefitting from the sacredness of that space, can be done safely and confidently." He went on to say that "not every Catholic Church will be open on 15 June, and the decision to open individual churches will be made locally". Having seen the four pages of conditions of opening set by the Bishops of England and Wales in discussion with the government, it is clear why not every Church will be able to be open at this time.

We are required to have two stewards in Church throughout the time Church is open for private prayer. They are to direct the use of hand sanitiser gel and ensure social distancing happens at all times.

St Theresa's will be ready for opening next Monday, volunteers permitting. Deacon Des and I will put down the floor tape with 2 metre distance, ensure that the hand gel we have obtained is available for use, and Clair is working on our signage. Those who have volunteered, will be asked what times and days they may offer their

services as steward, and these will be the days and times that we are able to be open. We will publish these days and times on our website, via WhatsApp and by this letter, in the hope that those who are not shielding may come into Church and remain safe.

This is but one step towards being open for public Masses and the celebration of the Sacraments, and we have as yet, no idea when that might be permitted.

Do please continue to pray for each other, be assured of my prayers for all of you, and please pray for me and for Deacon Des too.

With my love and blessing

Fr Lee