



The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, 13th September 2020

Dear Friends,

This week, we continue our journey towards the “new normal” for the Benefice. Today, St. Peter, Llanwenarth Citra re-opens for public worship with a service of Holy Eucharist. It will be a re-opening not only after lockdown, but also after the repairs to the damage caused by the flooding at the beginning of the year. I am sure that it will be a joyous occasion, as it has been at St. Mary’s and Holy Trinity. As always, thanks are due to all those who have made this re-opening possible.

In addition, this week we have had the good news that Christchurch will re-open for worship on Sunday September 20th with a service of Holy Eucharist. There will also be a celebration of Holy Eucharist every other Friday at Holy Trinity commencing this Friday, September 18th.

You will also have noticed from the Pew Leaflet that we will be calling Banns of Marriage at St. Mary’s today. Approval has been received to hold weddings at St. Mary’s and two are scheduled – at the end of October and in mid-November. There is also another due to take place at St. Peter’s later in the year. We are also now authorised to conduct funerals and memorial services at St. Mary’s. These are, of course, subject to appropriate social distancing and with limits on attendance.

However, we take these welcome steps on our journey in uncertain and unprecedented times. You will be aware that the increase in the rates of Covid-19 infections in certain parts of Wales has made it necessary for the Welsh Government to announce some restrictions. From Monday 14th September, it will become compulsory for people over 11 to wear a face covering in public indoor spaces. In addition, only a maximum of six people from an extended household will be able to meet indoors at any one time.

These restrictions have not affected our worship today. With regard to the future, Church in Wales guidance will be updated once the revised Welsh Government Regulations have been published in full. However, Civil Servants in the Welsh

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St. Mary’s Priory – Christchurch – Holy Trinity – St. Peter’s

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Government have confirmed to the Church in Wales that, after Monday, September 14th, churches and church halls can continue to be open and that the six person limit will not apply to acts of worship. Clarity is being sought over the requirements for face coverings within church buildings in the light of the latest announcement.

We will keep you informed of the latest information as it becomes available.

In the weekly Diocesan mailing, Bishop Cherry asks that we keep in our prayers those churches and communities in our diocese that fall within the County of Caerphilly and also the clergy who serve them.

She also asks that we pray for those who will shortly be ordained Deacon and Priest and licensed as Reader:

**To be ordained Priest by the Archbishop of Wales at Brecon Cathedral
on 26th September**

The Revd Samuel Patterson

**To be ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Monmouth at Newport Cathedral
on 3rd October**

Kay Denley

Mary Moore

**To be ordained Priest by the Bishop of Monmouth at Newport Cathedral
on 3rd October**

The Revd Lea Ryder

The Revd Lisa Taylor

The Revd Bronwen Summers

The Revd Matt Sellers

The Revd John Thorne

The Revd Heulwen Rees

**To be licensed as Reader by the Bishop of Monmouth at Newport Cathedral
on 7th October**

Paul Stafford

With every good wish

Jeff

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