

Message from Fr John for the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

Dear Friends

Greetings to you from St Joseph's! Tonight and tomorrow we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ or Corpus Christi. We celebrate the mystery of the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist that unites our community of faith. So great and wonderful is this mystery! I guess there is a certain irony in all of this given that our Churches have been closed since the end of March. I am very conscious – all bishops and priests are – that there is a tremendous hunger for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation. We ALL want to receive Holy Communion again. My dear friends – do not lose heart or become discouraged for very soon you will be able to receive Our Lord again.

From Monday places of worship can reopen for private prayer. I am afraid it will be a few more days before St Joseph's can reopen for private prayer. It was only yesterday – Friday – that I received updated guidelines from the Bishops' Conference along with risk assessment paperwork and guidance on where to obtain Covid-19 safety equipment and consumables. You will understand that it is going to take time to put everything together so that both Churches can be opened safely.

Over the next few days, I will be contacting those good people who have offered to help with the reopening of our two Churches. This is something that I cannot do by myself. Our volunteers will be invited to meet with me to discuss, plan and put in place arrangements for Church organization, stewarding and cleaning.

Masses, Night Prayer, Rosary meetings and other reflections will continue to be livestreamed for now. I have just started a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which is 'zoomed' at 6pm each evening. The Novena is for the personal and private intentions of all those who take part. It will conclude with the 10am Mass next Friday morning, 19th June, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tomorrow the 11am Mass will be 'zoomed'. You are most welcome to join us by clicking on the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91568116296?pwd=L2dXYkhNMIIPZTg1bJJoQldLcXRtQT>

Meeting ID: 915 6811 6296 Password: 882283

Finally, can you please pray for all those priests who are unwell at this time especially Fr John Chadwick.

I will keep you updated on progress as we prepare to reopen St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's. My focus is to open both Churches safely. This will take time and patience. Please pray that we can achieve this.

With my prayerful best wishes

Fr John Lee