

Kilclief Parish Pastoral Letter, 17th July 2021

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you are keeping safe and are well at this time and are enjoying your summer.

You may be aware that the Northern Ireland Executive has communicated its intention to further ease the current Covid-19 restrictions from the 26th July, while at the same time carefully observing health and safety regulations, guidelines on risk management, including the relaxation of social distancing measures from two metres to one metre.

Preventative measures are still required to safeguard public health. While vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the Covid-19 virus, I am mindful that the virus is still circulating in society, and I recognise the understandable concern on the part of all.

The Irish Bishops' instruction remains that at the present time **there is no obligation on anyone to attend Mass**. However, it is important for those who wish to attend Mass, that they be given the opportunity to do so, while taking all reasonable precautions and observing guidelines and directions to ensure the safety and welfare of all.

Parishioners are encouraged to do their best to participate in the celebration of Sunday Mass in a way in which they deem safe and to reflect on the centrality of Sunday Mass in the life of the parish, as the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.

In the time ahead as we journey back, with hope, to the full celebration of Sunday Mass, may we continue to join in our parish's Sunday celebration of Mass either virtually or in person.

From the 26th July Stella Maris Church and St Malachy's Church will be open daily. Masses will resume according to the pre-covid timetable including Sunday Mass.

Full details will be made available after the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 22nd July.

With every good wish and blessing,

John Mc Manus