

Friday, 03 July 2020

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Friends, it is with great joy that this week saw a broader re-opening of our churches, based now on capacity rather than specific numbers.

You helped this happen by signing the Open Our Churches petition, making it clear to our leaders that we wanted churches treated equally with other public places such as pubs, clubs and restaurants. Thank you for making your voices heard.

Now we would like to know more about other issues that are important to you and invite you to [take a brief survey](#) which will also help guide us on how we might best communicate with you during these times.

I know your priests are looking forward to welcoming you back in parishes in even greater numbers this weekend. While going to 'church at home' had its upsides, we knew it was second best. Our highest prayer is the Mass; it is where we participate most fully in Christ's self-giving by being present to each other and receiving His substance into our own in Holy Communion. And we extend that experience by praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

While necessary public health restrictions forced a long Eucharistic fast upon us, we are now free to return to the Table of the Lord. I hope and pray the hunger we've experienced should make us appreciate the Eucharist all the more, as we realise better than ever how important it is to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ and receive Him together.

If you are well and otherwise at low risk of infection, I encourage you to return to Sunday Mass this weekend.

Amended guidelines for Masses have been put in place. You can find out more about them in my latest pastoral letter, which can be [read here](#).

Once again, thank you for raising your voices so that we could have our churches reopened. Please take a moment to complete our survey.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Anthony Fisher, OP". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.