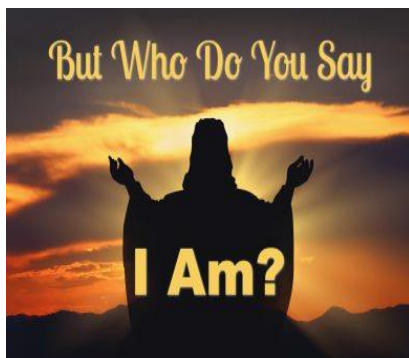




ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

12th September 2021



Relaxing the Restrictions

Following the lifting of restrictions by the Government, we are now able to open up more space in St. Gabriel's. We are allowed to have 50% of our normal capacity, which means we can have up to 350 in the church at any one time. There will still be lots of space for social distancing. We have removed all the ribbons closing off seats, but please be careful not to sit behind, in front of, or near another person. There are no more pods A and B and the centre aisle is open. However we will still have just one line in the centre aisle for Holy Communion and ask you to follow the stewards' instructions at all times.

MASKS must still be worn at all times in the church, and please continue to use our hand sanitisers and wet wipes. The limits on music, removal of holy water from fonts, omitting shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, as well as social distancing at all times, all remain in place. The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation also remains in place and you are still very welcome to attend Mass on a weekday instead, when numbers are far fewer and you may feel more confident. All services will also continue to be available on our webcam



We have come a long way and stayed safe throughout, thanks to everyone for observing all the regulations. And a huge thank you to our team of stewards from Clontarf GAA who have been there for every weekend Mass as well as special occasions such as Confirmation and First Holy Communions, and some large funerals - we are the envy of every other parish!!

Moving On

As we open up, please be aware that the people around you have changed...

The numbers of those in mental distress are far higher than they were this time last year:

*For every person who embraces the restrictions lifting,
there will be one who is extremely anxious.*

*For every person rushing to reclaim their old life,
there will be one who has no old life to go back to.*

*For every person who is saved just in time by the easing,
there will be one for whom it is too late.*

*So, the phrase we throw around so much but possibly don't realise what it truly means, comes to mind;
Be kind. Better than that, be aware.*

The world has changed and the people within it have too.

And we need a new normal. A new normal with space, understanding, respect and kindness.

Donna Ashworth