

This is the copy of the address delivered on at Mass on Sunday 29th
May 22 by Francine Brooks on behalf of Holy Cross PPC in agreement
with Fr Cyriacus.



Throughout the past couple of years, we have been grateful for the huge support and help that has enabled us to continue services at Holy Cross whilst adhering to safety guidelines and legal protocols placed upon us because of Covid-19.

Now that all the restrictions have been lifted, we are looking forward to a return to our pre-pandemic environment in Church whilst maintaining some of the more positive changes we made.

- As you will have noticed we have rearranged some of the pews, re-ordered the back of church and returned the Lady altar to a more prayerful space.
- We have maintained the wider aisles and created a more open space at the back which we believe enhances the environment.
- We can now use the kneelers and the seat cushions which are housed in the boxes at the back of church. Holy water will once again be available in the font in the porch.
- There is no longer a requirement to wear masks however this remains optional for those who wish to continue to wear one.
- We will still receive the blessed sacrament in the form of the Sacred Host only, however if you wish to receive on the tongue, you may now do so.
- We no longer have to observe distancing rules however please be mindful of those parishioners who would prefer the protection of their personal space.
- Procession to receive Holy Communion will continue as is, with the side benches first and then procession from the back.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who enabled to us make the necessary changes at the start of the lockdown so we could return to worship in safety; to those who helped us to adapt to ever-changing instructions and rules throughout the restrictions; and, to those who have worked so hard to help to draw together the recent changes.

We also want to thank those who ensured that all our services were maintained in the most respectful way, in particular on those special occasions such as Christmas and Easter, Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, despite the often very challenging limitations.

There is a long list of those to thank!

Thank you to Father Martin our previous Parish Priest, all the stewards and welcomers, the sacristans, altar servers, catechists and liturgists: the flower arrangers, musicians and cleaners; those who visit the sick and take Holy Communion to our housebound fellow parishioners; those who offer lifts, serve coffee and those who offer many other unsung kindnesses; to our parish groups, committees and our administration team and all those parishioners who work behind the scenes offering their time to keep our church beautiful and our services operating smoothly and with great reverence. And to Father Cyriacus for all your support, spiritual guidance and the inspiration to be One Family in Christ.

But most of all we want to thank all of you, our fellow Parishioners, for your patience, understanding and prayers throughout all the changes.

These past two years has had a dramatic impact on all our lives and we have faced the challenges together. We have had many positive outcomes such as unity, teamwork, appreciation of our church and our community but also those 'not so positive' outcomes such as the financial impact of the pandemic and a reduction in our income. That being said, we have weathered that storm well by drawing on our reserves and as you will be able see from our Finance Team report which soon will be posted at the back on church, our losses were bearable.

We now face a time of renewal and a chance to rebuild for the future and for that, as always, we need the support of you, our Parishioners.

Whether that is offering your time to help in the Parish for example, serving coffee after Mass on Sunday; counting the collections for just half an hour on Sunday after Mass; joining the cleaning rota just once every 4 to 6 weeks; or, helping with Children's Liturgy.

Maybe it could be taking part in Parish social activities, joining Parish teams such as the Martha Group or supporting fund raising events.

Or it could be offering more financial support through increasing weekly collections arranged preferably via standing order or supporting brilliant initiatives such as the Bonus Ball; buying a coffee on Sunday; purchasing a card or gift from our Repository or, simply lighting a candle. Every little bit of extra support really does go a long way.

Most importantly we ask that you continue to pray for all of us as a parish community – for Holy Cross, for One Family.

If you would like to know more about how you can support the Parish, increase your giving, become involved or if you need any more information, please don't hesitate speak to Fr Cyriacus or myself at church or contact us on yelverton@prcdtr.org.uk.

Thank you.