



The Federation of St Bede's & St Bernadette Catholic Schools

Federation Headteacher: Ewa Ostrynska

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11th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below a message from Fr Marcus, our Parish Priest. I would urge you to respond positively so that St Bede's Church can be reopened for private prayer as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Ewa Ostrynska
Federation Headteacher

URGENT - OUR CHURCH CAN ONLY RE-OPEN WITH YOUR HELP

From 15th June, we can open the churches again. This is great news! Time in church and visiting Our Lord is so precious and can make so much difference to us during this terrible time.

I'm keen that we get St Bede's open as soon as possible in the first wave. Initially the churches can only be open for private prayer (we hope by July some services and sacraments will be possible in church too). However, we are under strict rules and can only open at all with your help and the extent of our opening is dependent upon your voluntary support.

If you are not in the 'at-risk' or 'vulnerable' category then you can volunteer. Volunteers are needed inside and outside of the church for all times (this is the condition of our getting approval to open). Volunteers will need to ensure social distancing rules and also will need to help with basic sanitation.

Please contact us immediately so that we can plan to reopen next week. You will be sent all information needed, the necessary guidelines and receive a simple briefing before starting. Please indicate which days you can help with and how much time you can give (ideally in blocks of two hours - although a single hour is acceptable).

Ideally I'd like the church to be open from 10.45am-12.45am every day. We also will prioritise weekends so that more people are able to make visits. If we have sufficient volunteers then weekend opening may be extended.

We also hope to have periods when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration. This will depend on a number of watchers (if you can't volunteer you might commit to private prayer at specific times which will help us plan too).

Please send an email response to Ann Holder (co-ordinator) on [07710358823](tel:07710358823) or by email annholder777@btinternet.com. You are welcome also to contact me on marcusholden@rcaos.org.uk.

Simply give your name and contact details (with permission to use them for this voluntary exercise) and the time each week that you can give (e.g. **two hours on any day in the morning** or **two blocks of two hours at weekends any time of day**).

I'm praying for a good and generous response so that we can open the House of God.

Fr Marcus