

Opening of St Joseph's church for Private Prayer has been approved. Our first day of opening will be this Sunday between 10am and 2pm followed by Wednesday between 11am and 1pm. We will review these times and confirm arrangements for each week in advance via the Parish Website and Social Media. Details will also be included in the Weekly Parish Bulletin published on our Website.

We are grateful to those who have come forward as volunteers to make this possible. There will be 2 Stewards present in church during the time it is open who will help and guide visitors. Please follow any advice and guidance they give.

Entrance will only be by the door at the end of the footbridge next to the school. Entry by the steps at the bottom of Crab Hill will not be permitted.

A signposted 'one way' system will be in place in the church. Benches have been taped off to ensure 2 metre social distancing can be maintained inside the church. Some benches will be suitable for individuals, others for up to 3 people from the same household. There will also be a limit on the total number of people in church at the same time. Should the church reach its limit then a "one in, one out" policy will be adopted.

There will be no Toilet facilities available in order to prevent any risk of transmission of infection.

Alcohol Hand Gel will be available and must be used by visitors to sanitise their hands on entry and exit from the church.

The wearing of cloth face coverings by visitors to church will not be made compulsory and is a choice made by themselves. Visitors should not see their voluntary use disrespectful to prayer or the sacred place.

Our school will be open on Wednesdays, so visitors need to take care when approaching church and ensure social distancing requirements are maintained.

These measures we have put in place may seem burdensome, or even a little daunting. They are however necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of all who wish to use our church for private prayer.

If you have any questions or comments then please get in touch by emailing the parish office at [office.stjoseph.pontefract@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.stjoseph.pontefract@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)