



## Re: Re-opening of church and Christmas Services.

My dear parishioners,

- The latest Government guidelines allowed churches to re-open on Sunday, 6 December. In the interests of safety, we have decided that, for the present, only one Sunday service will be held, at 10.30 a.m. As was the case in Stage 3 earlier this year, our congregation will have to be limited to **50 people** in order to observe proper social distancing. Masks, of course, must be worn by all attendees and our Covid stewards will be on duty as before, to oversee the requisite guidelines, in relation to holding church services. We can only have soloist singers, and we are indeed greatly indebted to our various and inspiring parishioner soloists.
- Regarding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, where we intend to hold one **Christmas Eve** service, Holy Communion at **11.00 p.m.**, and two services on **Christmas Day** at **8.30 a.m.**, Holy Communion and **10.30 a.m.**, Family Service, these will each also require special 50 limit arrangements, as outlined below, since we anticipate more than 50 people will wish to attend each of these services.
- So, we therefore now have to ask parishioners to reserve places for each Christmas Day service, on a first come first served basis. Reservations may now be made by phoning the parish office on **01 4934972** between **9.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays**, and this reservation line will remain open till the morning of Wednesday 23 December.
- Finally, when I wrote my 'Rector's Letter' for the parish magazine, in the first half of November, it was not possible then to know precise details about churches being open for Christmas services. I therefore didn't mention our traditional Christmas collections for the **Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal for overseas aid and development**, which are always very generously supported. Whilst Christmas church services re-opening are also on a restricted basis, we have nonetheless included the latest Bishops' Appeal information bulletin and an envelope in the Christmas

edition of 'Whitechurch News'. For those who are in a position to attend Christmas services, a specific basket will be available in the church, where Bishops' Appeal envelope contributions can be made. For those not able to attend, but who would wish to contribute, contributions can be posted, c/o Whitechurch Parish, Office, Old School, Whitechurch Parish Church, Whitechurch Road, Dublin 16 ER29, and marked 'For the Bishops' Appeal'. Cheques should be made payable to 'Whitechurch Select Vestry'.

Every blessing to all,

Horace McKinley.