

Report based on *The Guide for a successful implementation of the deconfinement plan.*

St. Thomas More Parish, Verdun

Following an online questionnaire completed by over 80% of our parishioners – more than half by phone – the parish de-confinement team at its 3rd meeting decided to open this coming weekend, with one additional mass. The team's 5th and final meeting will be debriefing next week.

Mass times: Saturday 5pm remains as previously, Sunday is changed to 9am, and every second Sunday there will be a 10:30 mass with catechesis for applicable families only. That ensures there is enough restricted space for all, and virtually no seniors and children at the same mass, while allowing us to complete the catechesis programme.

Communication: Two zoom and phone-in information sessions have been held, as well as a 6-page mailing to all parishioners, including the attached rule sheet. The attached mailing includes our areas of focus. Primarily, it is Sunday mass and catechesis, then funerals, the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment, and shifting communications from tedious all-parish phone calls to announcements at mass. We had established a website six months ago, and at the beginning of confinement created a weekly e-newsletter. By our 3rd all-parish call around, we have obtained emails for half the faithful.

Volunteer Training: Our first volunteer training for 16 parishioners was led last weekend by volunteer coordinator Deacon Bernie Glover, with the focus as attached. A second is scheduled for this evening with at least 6 coming, and another for next week. I am responsible for training the sacristan, the readers and the music laptop operators.

Preparing The Premises: One of wardens heads the set-up team which is almost complete in it's task with a beauty-enhanced church. Signs, all 12x18, include the Diocesan pictogram modified for receiving communion in the pews (which I can send you to put on your website), mask requirements, entrance markers, "do not enter" for certain areas, etc... Each pew has a coloured ribbon denoting which mass it is for, spaced three pews apart.

Everything has followed all details of *The Guide*. There are no shared surfaces, and therefore no cleaning required. On weekdays, the church is closed to all, except volunteers on Wednesdays only, ensuring no contamination within three days of mass.

The Resources: For a parish until last autumn had only deployed three regular non-liturgical volunteers plus the wardens, they've come together with three dozen de-confinement volunteers. Financially, our expenses are mostly from the print and mail company, and for pew ribbons, totalling \$600.

I'm happy to provide further information on request. May God richly bless your work.

Father Robert Assaly+
Parochial Administrator

