



## Preparing for Christmas Day – TwoMileHouse Parish Update for the Parish Pastoral Council

With Christmas being just around the corner, as a Parish Council, we wanted to update you on preparations being made to date:-

- The number of Christmas Masses here in St. Peter's Church will be extended from 2 to 4.
  - Two 'Vigil' Masses on Christmas Eve at 6PM and the traditional 9PM.
  - Two 'Christmas Morning' Masses at 9AM and the traditional 11AM
- The reason for this is that we expect larger numbers to attend Mass over these 2 days, and as you know, due to public health guidelines, our capacity inside the church is limited.
- We'd like to extend our gratitude to Fr. Liam, Fr. Michael, Fr. Jackie and the many volunteers who are giving of their time and making this possible.
  
- We will not have a booking system or first come first served. Therefore, just like other Sundays, some of us may have to listen to Mass outdoors. And, as always, our Stewards will be around to assist with this arrangement. So please speak with a Steward when you arrive and let them know if being inside is important to you. Or dress appropriately and maybe consider offering your place inside to someone who may need it more.
- We'd also like you to think about which Mass time is for you.
  - If you have a young family – does the 6PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass feel like the best option for you?
  - If you want to attend a 'less congested' Mass – maybe the 9AM Christmas Morning service is the one for you.
  - And we ask that you attend only **one** of the 4 services.

- Our preparations are also determined by public health government guidelines:
  - We are only allowed to have people inside the church for 1 hour – so we will delay the opening of the door and we will need to ventilate for 1 hour between masses.
  - Church does not open until 15 mins before mass. (if you arrive early – stay in your car)
  - Our capacity inside is 50 people and we have 31 ‘places’/benches for people/households to sit – 2m apart;#
  - Music will be simple – no choir – just a cantor/organ.
  - Mask wearing is obligatory;
  - And once the service is over, returning promptly to our cars and homes is critical.
  
- But we also know the importance of this occasion to our spiritual health and the needs of parishioners to visit the Crib. This year, we will have 2 cribs, one inside and one outside. Consider visiting the crib outside of mass time with your family.
- Preparations for this are ongoing and we’ll be giving a further update at the end of next Sunday’s Mass.
  
- There is more information in our Christmas newsletter. However if you have a question you can approach any members of the Parish Council.
- Full details on [www.naasparish.ie](http://www.naasparish.ie)