



Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh – Charity No. SC0008540

The Catholic Parish of St. Patrick's

Chapel House: 30 Low Craigends, Kilsyth, Glasgow G65 0PF

Parish Clergy: Fr. Daniel P. Doherty & Fr. Sean Bradley

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Dear Parishioner,

We have received the very disappointing news that the **Government has decided that we can only return to Mass from 23rd July 2020.**

It is difficult to understand why this is considering that from 15th July the public will be able to go to hairdressers, cinemas, museums and libraries, restaurants and pubs as long as physical distancing measures are in place. **It is very disappointing that the practice of religion is placed somewhere below non-essential leisure and beauty activities.** Be that as it may, we ought to try to change their minds.

I want to encourage you to **write to your MSP today regarding this.** Among other things, you may want to say, you could make the following points:

- *In good faith, the Church has absolutely complied with all the requests that the Government has made of it in recent months. The Church will continue to comply with the necessary measure to open safely;*
- *At St Patrick's Church strict physical distancing and sanitising facilities are already in place for those visiting the church for private prayer;*
- *If cinemas, libraries and restaurants are open, it is difficult to see how a physically distanced gathering in a church is essentially different;*
- *Mention briefly, what the parish means to you, your family and the community in Kilsyth, Queenzieburn and Banton.*

Remembering that we are trying to represent the needs of the Church to a secular authority, we should be very polite but very to the point.

A letter or preferably an email **and** a telephone call to his office would be good. Here are the contact details:

You can write to:

**Jamie Hepburn MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
EDINBURGH EH99 1SP**

Or Email:

jamie.hepburn.msp@parliament.scot

You can telephone the Holyrood Parliament to reach his office at:

0800 092 7500 or 01236 453969

I encourage you to do this **today**. I think there is a good chance we could get the authorities to change their minds.

When contacting Jamie Hepburn MSP, please state your name and address

God bless you for your efforts,

Yours,

Fr Daniel