**Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul**

**Reintroduction of Funerals and Requiem Masses.**

There is no doubt that the greatest cross has been carried by those who have lost loved ones over these past few months as they have been unable to observe the rites and rituals associated with mourning that are so much part of our faith and culture. Conscious of the huge sacrifice many families have experienced and heroically made since the introduction of restrictions, we continue to hold them and their deceased loved ones in prayer.

On 28th March, the NI Executive enacted legislation which introduced restrictions on individuals’ daily lives and on the pastoral activities of all church bodies. **Exceptional provision was made in legislation for the celebration of funerals within churches with no more than ten persons present.**

Having consulted widely, it was decided that the most prudent practice for the safety of all was to maintain the restrictions already placed upon the celebration of funerals within this Diocese. I resolved at the time to reintroduce the practice of Funeral services and Requiem Masses within churches when it could be deemed appropriate to do so.

Now, with the gradual and welcome decline in the number of Covid-19 related deaths, reduced levels of viral transmission within the community, having consulted widely with diocesan clergy and with the appropriate sanitary measures provided for within our churches, I have determined that it is the appropriate time to reintroduce the practice of Funeral services and Requiem Masses across the Diocese of Down and Connor.

**With immediate effect, Funeral services or Requiem Masses will now be resumed across the Diocese of Down and Connor, while observing the limits on the numbers attending to 10 mourners and observing social distancing regulations.**

**+Noel Treanor** Bishop of Down and Connor

**In the light of this statement we will now be able to celebrate Funeral Masses at Saint Vincent de Paul’s Church**

**– with a congregation of 10 mourners.**

**Please find enclosed 10 tickets (one for each mourner coming to the church) and list for name of mourners.**

**Fr Devlin Parish Priest**

**Names of those coming to the church:**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**

**10**

**I realise the near impossibility of families choosing ten mourners for the church ceremony. This is for health and safety reasons at this time of Covid-19 to comply with legislation and instructions. It is a regret that we have need of such rules - but we need them -**

**TO KEEP SAFE ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY.**

**Your family’s health and life is our only priority.**

**For your family’s safety please follow these guidelines carefully**

**Funeral Mass for the late**

**Pauline Boyle**

**Rest In Peace**

**Please ensure that you use the**

**sanitiser on entering the church.**

**ONLY A PERSON WITH A TICKET MAY ENTER**

**THE CHURCH FOR THIS MASS**

**There are 10 tickets for this Mass**

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