**SUNDAY MASS BEGINS    AGAIN THIS WEEKEND**

**Sat 30/ Sun 31 May**

**WEEKDAY MASS**

**BEGINS AGAIN ON**

**Monday 1st JUNE**

**Because of the restrictions on numbers under Level 2**

**(no more than 100 at Mass)**

**we must control entry to ensure safe numbers. For this reason we are adding TWO additional Masses and these are the new times until Level 2 finishes:  all Masses will be at the Church here in Howick:**

**Saturday Vigil Mass**

**5.00 pm (new) & 6.30pm**

**Sunday Mass**

**8.00/9.30/11.00am (new)**

**and 5.30 pm**

**These Mass Times will only be during the period of the Level 2 Alert.  We cannot have more than 100 people inside the Church at Mass.**

(1)   Greetings to you all, and what great news it is that we can gather now for weekday and Sunday Mass in our Church.   The Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, and Parish Liturgy Committee held a special meeting in the Church tonight (Thursday 28 May) to assess the steps we needed to take to begin Mass again THIS WEEKEND (30/31 May).  Week day Masses begin again this Monday 01 June with the 9.15 am Mass.

(2)  HOWEVER,  with the restrictions we face still under Level 2,  we are only permitted no more than 100 people in the Church at Mass.    That is why we have added for the next few weeks until Level 2 is finished, two extra Masses here in Howick.   Why are we doing this?   The reason is simple:   normally on a Sunday we would have between 800-900 people attending Mass in our Church;  it is impossible to fit that many people into Mass if we are limited to just 100 people at a Mass.   So, we are adding these two additional Mass (Saturday at 5.00 pm, and Sunday at 11.00 am)  but we may still face major difficulties in finding room for all.   You need to be kind, generous, and patient-  which I know you are!

(3)  Until we move out of Level 2 and into Level 1  there will NOT be Mass at Beachlands on a Saturday evening as we currently have too small a venue to meet safely, and we need to make sure the available Mass is full- that is why this 5.00 pm Mass will shift to Howick until we move to Level 1:    then that Mass will return to Beachlands.

(4)  Father Terry will email you some  practical things you need to know about coming to Mass here beginning this weekend (30/31 May):   above all you must **email the parish office immediately  (**[**office@howickcatholic.org.nz**](mailto:office@howickcatholic.org.nz)**)  (and before 12 noon tomorrow, Friday**,   to indicate the following-

i.   One name and contact details (phone and email) plus how many will be with you;

ii.  What Mass you wish to book in for  (Sat 5.00/6.30pm,  Sun 8.00/9.30/11.00am and 5.30 pm-  the Sat 5.00pm and Sun 11.00am Masses are extras because of the 100 maximum limit:  **the first 100 names received in order of time via email booking in for a particular Mass can be accommodated-**if more book in or simply arrive and have not checked in we may well have to ask you not to come in, and maybe try for a later Mass.

iii.  We need to be generous in looking out for another and kind and patient.

iv.   If you are feeling unsure or vulnerable it is fine to stay away at this time.

(5)   Please find attached the Pastoral Letter the Bishops of New Zealand have addressed to us all, entitled "**Leaving the Closed Room".**Our Bishops want us to know that all people are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this time so we ask those who are vulnerable to the virus, those who are afraid and anyone who is not well to stay at home.

**It is wonderful that we can return to Mass in our beautiful parish Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, especially this weekend just in time for the lovely Feast of Pentecost-   the day of the Holy Spirit.  WELCOME HOME, IT WILL BE LOVELY TO SEE YOU ALL!**

**Loving and upholding you from here-  *John***

--

**Father John Fitzmaurice**

**PARISH PRIEST**

Dear People,

Now that the restrictions in Alert Level 2 have been relaxed, we are able to allow up to 100 people at each Mass. This weekend, as an experiment, we will be having 6 Masses: 5.00 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. at Howick. Then on Sunday at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. (new). For the time being there will be none at Beachlands.

Contact tracing is still a big issue. So everyone who comes to church will have to supply Name, Address, and Phone Number. This can be done in one of two ways.

***Our preferred way*** is with the App CONTACT-19. We recommend  you set this up ahead of time. It can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play stores. You will be asked for your Name, Address and Phone Number. Your phone will now have a CONTACT-19 icon on the screen. At the church, run the App and point it at the CONTACT-19 poster in the church foyer. That's all.  
Essentially what is being done by most shops with a sheet of paper. Just that no-one can see everyone's details this way.

* unfortunately not all phones do this smoothly. There is an alternative. Go to <https://checkin-19.com/services/3621/check-ins/create>
* you can also use this method if you do not have a QR Reader on your phone.
* if you don't feel confident doing this, there will be people at the church who will help you. Or employ the help of a teenager!

***The alternative way***, if you can't or don't want to use an App, is to sign in at the door on a sheet of paper. The same way you do at most shops in town. If you are going to do this, please reply to this email with your details, including how many are coming with you. They will be printed out for you and be there at the door; all you will have to do is to sign your entry.

***We also would like to know which Mass we can expect you to come to.*** Remember there is a 100-person limit at each Mass. So the first hundred who reply for each Mass will be the only ones who get in.  Please don't be upset if we reply that we cannot accommodate you at your preferred Mass. Phone the Parish Office (09 534 8710), or email: [office@howickcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@howickcatholic.org.nz).  
Likewise if you just turn up unannounced; we will do our best for you, but people who have already registered must get first preference.

Father Terry