

## **The Sunday Obligation**

**My Dear friends,**

**I hope that you are all well, and I continue to pray for you all. Recently you may have heard that the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales Conference updated guidance as 'Step 4' on attending Mass. The Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended because of the pandemic. Here is part of a statement from the Bishops of England and Wales issued on 13th July.**

**“It is our continuing judgement that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021 (27th/28th November)”**

**In the meantime, I would encourage you to do your best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass or weekday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of worship in the life of the Church.**

**You will have read that many of the safety measures we have operated for over a year remain in place to ensure your participation in Mass is as safe as possible.**

**I look forward to welcoming more of you back to St Mary's over the coming weeks and months and participating in our parish community.**

**I may not know everybody's name but I have a remarkable memory for faces as any Priest who cares for his people should, so I have missed quite a number of you since the first lockdown, and want you to know that I have not forgotten you and pray that you may come back to Mass soon. If there is anything I can do to reassure you, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

**May God Bless you all.**

**Fr Paul**