

The Right Reverend Robert Byrne CO, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle announces the first five Churches to reopen for individual prayer

HM Government has announced that churches and other places of worship are set to open for individual prayer from 15 June 2020. But, [as advised by Cardinal Vincent Nichols](#), President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, not all churches will immediately reopen due to the ongoing Covid-19 safety measures to protect clergy, parishioners, staff and volunteers. There will be a phased opening of more churches after safety measures have been assessed and implemented.

The first five churches to reopen for individual prayer in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are:

- St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle
- St Aidan's, Ashington
- St Patrick's, Consett
- St Mary's, Sunderland
- St Joseph's, Hartlepool

Further details, including the date and times of opening, will be announced as they become available.