Dear parishioners, recent months have brought many challenges as we live with the threat and fear of Covid19. The virus has affected all our lives at so many different levels. This includes our inability to meet for worship as a community, greatly missed. As we gradually emerge from lockdown, we are thankful that we can now celebrate mass together as a faith community. However, meeting together poses particular problems for all churches. Many parishioners may be anxious and fearful about being close to others, and there is no obligation to attend mass on their part. I am happy to bring communion whenever it is safe to meet. Another major obstacle revolves around the permitted number who can attend church, given the 2 metre distancing rule which is in place to protect us from the virus. We want to keep parishioners safe, but this limits our congregational numbers. Only 15 can be accommodated in Tayport and 16 in Newport. Families sitting together may enhance this number, but only to a very small extent. This is the reason for the introduction of an additional mass time in Newport at 11.30 on Sunday morning. We need to be patient as we try to work out the pattern of mass attendance. I have laid out some important considerations. PLEASE reserve your place for Sunday mass. I am sorry to have to introduce this, but space is so limited in our 2 Churches. As we try to manage this awkward situation, do not be offended if you cannot enter the church. You will be given priority for the next weekend. It may be necessary to ask parishioners to come to mass every second weekend. This is not a satisfactory arrangement, but we are constrained by present regulations. Wear a face covering at all times, except for the reception of communion, and receive communion in the hand. Leave the Church through the sacristy immediately after communion. There will be no singing of hymns, a precaution against the extension of droplets that can infect others. For the time being, we have been asked to keep the time spent together to the minimum. “Brief sermons.” Seating is marked out, and please follow the direction given by pass keepers. Please use the sanitiser as you enter the Church. Sanitiser is available in the sacristy as you leave the Church. Every bench will be sanitised along with other surfaces. Please place your collection in the basket as you leave the Church. Do not come to mass if you feel unwell in any way. And contact myself or the chairperson of the parish council if you have reserved a place for a particular Sunday, but cannot attend due to illness. Fr. Martin on 07929472391...Jack Meiland on 01382 543037. Helpers will also be needed to sanitise the Church after each mass. Please volunteer to help. Please leave your contact details as you enter the Church. This is a safeguarding measure in the event of a parishioner attending mass who has symptoms of Covid-19 without their knowledge at the time. The Scottish government have asked us to do this as part of the trace and protect policy. Many thanks for your patience and endurance under such difficult circumstances. It will be great to meet up again as a faith community. Masses will resume on the 25th -26th . July,and weekday masses will begin again on 28th.July. May the Lord bless and protect every one of you. If you have any worries, then please phone me on 07929472391