

Praying and Caring for One Another

As the government continue on a daily basis to issue new advice or instructions about how we should deal with the coronavirus pandemic, we are also being helped by the staged plan prepared by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. We only introduced stage 2 last weekend but unfortunately by Wednesday it was necessary to announce that stage 3 would be implemented from Friday evening. Bishop John, introducing the statement from the bishops, said: "In the coming weeks and even months we must learn to be Church in a different way."

We cannot have public acts of worship but must keep up a rhythm of prayer:

Masses: For the foreseeable future, we are not able to gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This means that the priests will celebrate the Masses without a congregation being present. It is our intention to live-stream Masses via our parish Facebook page and we will be able to do this from St Luke's Church from this **Sunday (9.30am & 11am)** and then **Monday to Saturday (9am & 7.30pm)**. We can't currently do this from Ss Peter and Paul due to lack of internet access in church but will look into that in the coming weeks.

If these Mass times are not convenient for you, other parishes will also be live-streaming Masses (see www.churchservices.tv or our diocesan website) and our diocesan liturgy office has produced a format of prayer for people to use on Sundays if they can't live-stream a Mass (see diocesan or parish website).

It is important to remember that whenever a priest offers Mass, he does so with and on behalf of the people, even if they are not physically present. For the time being, parishioners are invited to make a spiritual communion at home: "My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen."

The bishops wrote: "**We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.** This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time."

Open Churches: The bishops are also keen to stress that, whilst we cannot have public acts of worship, we can keep our churches open to allow individuals time for private prayer. As far as possible, we intend to have both of our churches open for two hours **each morning (10am to 12noon)** and two hours **each evening (5pm to 7pm)**. We will need people to sign up for short slots during these times so that we can guarantee someone being in church throughout. Those who come into church during these periods are asked to observe the advice about hand sanitizing and social distancing.

Confessions: During this period, those wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation will need to telephone the priests and make an appointment. We cannot have set times which might attract a number of people because it would not be possible to sanitize the confessional after each penitent has been in there. Likewise, we will not be able to have a penitential service (as we were hoping to do in Holy Week) because of the ban on public acts of worship.

In these challenging times we must continue to care for one another:

Visits to the Housebound: These will need to be kept to a minimum and so those who usually visit (SVP members or Eucharistic Ministers) are asked to keep in touch with those they visit either by telephone or email. We will also be looking to use similar means to support anyone who is self-isolating either through illness or vulnerability. If an actual visit becomes necessary, whoever is going will need to follow the protocols set out to protect the person(s) being visited and themselves.

Providing for those in need: Caritas Diocese of Salford runs various projects around the diocese (including those serving the homeless and rough sleepers) and is conscious that there may be disruption to food supplies or shortages due to increased demands. Consequently they are asking parishioners to donate the following food items: Cereals; Tinned soups, stew, meat, fish, beans, vegetables and fruit; Pasta, rice and pasta sauce; Long life milk or natural fruit juices. Alternatively, you might like to make a financial contribution so that Caritas can purchase the things it needs most. Your donations can be made at any of the Caritas centres across the diocese (phone 0161 817 2250 for details) or can be left in our churches (when open) or at our presbyteries to be passed on. Thank you for whatever help you are able to provide.

<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>In the midst of this anxious period, let us today remember to thank God for our mothers and to pray for them, whether living or dead, on this Mother's Day. And let us not forget that the Church is our Mother too!</p>	<p>Hospital Chaplaincy</p> <p>Many of you will know Fr Frank Waterworth who has served as chaplain to Salford Royal (Hope) Hospital for some 17 years. In the current crisis, he is required to step down (temporarily) because his age puts him in the category of those who are vulnerable and should self-isolate. (So must Fr David). Fr Mark has accepted the bishop's invitation to take on this responsibility for the time being, though he will also remain as an assistant priest here. Please pray for him and for all hospital chaplains and staff at this time.</p>
--	---

This Week

Live-streamed Masses on parish Facebook page: Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford
Sunday 9.30am & 11am (Celebrated by Bishop John); Monday to Saturday 9am & 7.30pm

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday – Mother's Day – Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments
Monday: Lent Weekday or St Turibius of Mogrovejo
Tuesday: Lent Weekday
Wednesday: **The Annunciation of the Lord** (Solemnity)
Thursday: Lent Weekday
Friday: Lent Weekday
Saturday: Lent Weekday

Clocks go forward one hour (at 1am) next Sunday morning

Sick: Robert Livesey, Alcie O'Malley, Nuala Corrigan, Michael Kelly, Tomas Cusack, Kay Kimmins, Fr Peter Gooden, Clare McGovern, John Ainsworth.

Lately Dead: Stephen Smith, Kay Murphy, Steve Cottrill

Anniversaries: Martin Murray, Kitty Basha

Masses Received: Sarah Horton, Samuel Horton, Anthony Horton, Martin Murray (Anniversary), Stephen Smith (Lately Dead), Kay Murphy (Lately Dead), Alan Roberts, Kitty Basha (Anniversary), Pat McGrath (Birthday), Steve Cottrill (Lately Dead), Bridget & Jack Sloyan, Madge & Merion Roberts, Norah Livesey (Mother's Day Remembrance), Terry McDermott (Birthday Remembrance), Edith Blacklock, John Blacklock, Dolly Clooney, Bob Clooney

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Let us pray for the people of the parish of St Marie, Haslingden, their parish primary schools and Fr John Broadley, their parish priest

Prayer During the Pandemic: O God, our refuge and our shield, even when we walk in the shadow of death you are there at our side. Be with your people in this time of danger: bring strength to the afflicted and protection to those untouched by disease. Give us love and courage, that we may trust in your power to save and reach out to all who need our care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following activities have been **cancelled or postponed** due to the restrictions imposed at present:

- Cancelled: Station Masses, Ecumenical Lunches, Sycamore, Reconciliation Service, All group meetings
- Postponed: DBS Clinic, Altar Servers Day, Tuesday night course on the Mass
- Postponed: Laudato Si Group's appeal for used towels and bedding for Cornerstone or Loaves & Fishes
- Postponed: Sacramental Programme meetings and dates for First Holy Communion
- Cancelled: All events and activities in the parish centre (St Luke's Club) with immediate effect

Please note that the AA meetings at Ss Peter & Paul will continue as they are a vital support to vulnerable people

Collections: Offertory Collection (Sunday 15 March): £1,141.64 CAFOD Fast Day: £1348.80 Many thanks.
All parishioners are encouraged to return their **Gift Aid** forms as soon as possible, thank you.

Next week's newsletter: Jan McIntyre - Items by Wednesday emailed to newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk
To receive future newsletters electronically, please send an email request to priests@ourladyofhope.org.uk