



## **OUR PARISH RESPONSE TO THE LATEST GOVERNMENT AND CHURCH INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE CORONA VIRUS**

**Fundamentally this new way of life that has been thrust upon us is a chance for us to grow more unselfish and caring for each other. If this happens everyone will benefit.**

From Friday 20 March 2020 from 6pm there will be no more services available to Parishioners or the General Public in our Church alongside all other Catholic Churches in the UK. This restriction is constantly under review. Our own local arrangements given below are also under constant review.

This includes Sunday and Weekday Mass, It also includes Baptisms, Funerals, and Devotions in Church.

**Regarding the Obligation of us Catholics to make the effort to attend Sunday Mass:** that obligation has been lifted by our Archbishop and all the Bishops of England and Wales until this situation changes.

**Regarding Mass** there are many Churches that “Live-stream”. Furthermore there is a daily mass offered by Irish Television which people could watch on a computer. There is a daily public mass from the national Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham on <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

**“Spiritual Communion”** There will be prayers published to help people to make a “Spiritual Communion” each day and especially on Sundays.

**Holy Mass will be said in our Church everyday behind locked doors** not at the usual mass times. You will know we who are ordained are offering the Sacrifice of the Mass for all, in our Parish, our Archdiocese, our Country and for the World. The communion we make as ordained priests will include praying for God to help us to be a better Church in communion with our head in the Mystical Body of Christ. The Spiritual Communion of the laity will unite us to each other and for others. Ultimately we pray that this world wide “crisis” may be another step in the fulfilment of Jesus’ prayer that “ALL MAY BE ONE”.

**First Communions** will be postponed until later on in the year.

**Our Church will be open** each day for private prayer from 10am to 12 noon. Also from 3pm to 5pm. Please keep a social distance from others of 2 metres. Entrance will be only by the side door on the right hand side. Follow the flags.

**The Bulletin** with mass intentions and other notices will be on the website each week and some printed copies in Church.

**Funerals** will happen but they will take place in the Parish Cemetery or in the Crematorium according to the instructions of the Crematoriums themselves. For instance numbers of mourners may be limited to those closest to the deceased.

**Baptisms** will all be postponed. Those who have already booked baptisms will receive via Sister Veronica a letter from Fr Jonathan to this effect.

**Weddings** will be very restricted if they happen; we are advised to suggest that they should be postponed until bride, groom and family and friends can enjoy weddings in the normal way

**Please contact us** via the Parish website if you have any needs. Or by phone.

We pray for each and every one of our parishioners and others, please pray for us. Please forgive us our frailties if we let anyone down: and let us learn to forgive each other if necessary. Thank you Parishioners and friends especially for all your concerns for our welfare. Out of love for you all we are “self-isolating” as far as possible to avoid spreading the virus and avoid catching it as well, as we would not be of much use to you if either happened.

**The food bank** remains open from Monday to Thursday 10-12 from next week 23 March. Thank you to those who are still giving food. We are much in need for more food to help those in need locally: Tins of anything, Cereals, Sugar, Long life Milk.

**The Official documents of the Church** that we have followed from the Bishops of England and Wales about the Covid-19 epidemic are published under the heading **Important Issues** under the Bulletins Tag.

Fr Jonathan Cotton osb Parish Priest. 19 March 2020 Feast of St Joseph, Protector of the Church and the World