

Dear Parishioners,

We are going through very difficult times. I know that many of you have huge concern for your families and your jobs, for your financial situation and your health. Very many of us are very keen to reach out to those especially who are frail and those who need help with shopping, transport, etc.

We cannot gather to celebrate Mass and other services. The preparation programme for children who were looking forward to their First Holy Communion has had to be suspended until this crisis has passed. The public life of the Church has had to be curtailed. Mass will be said in the church each day but without a congregation. But Christ is always with us and he is our hope and our strength. Our church will be open each day from 10.00 am – 12 noon for people to come for quiet prayer. We are very grateful to all who have volunteered to be in church during those hours to ensure that the church and worshippers are safe.

I would be happy to bring Holy Communion to those who express a wish for this. Please have no hesitation to ring the presbytery. Do not think you are imposing on anyone. It is a privilege to bring the Eucharist to those who cannot come to Mass.

Many people also have volunteered to help with shopping. These are people who have been security checked. They would not need to enter your house if you have decided to stay in self-isolation. Do not hesitate to ring the presbytery – 01903 242624 – and it will be arranged. Please do not feel that you are on your own. We belong together as Christ's family. We are far from perfect but we do try to help one another. It maybe that you need somebody to walk your dog. Again give a ring and a reliable person would be delighted to be of assistance. Do not try to struggle on by yourself. You would genuinely give people joy by giving them the opportunity to help in any way they can.

We cannot join in public worship but there is never a shortage of ways to give glory to God by reaching out to one another. Let us pray for one another and for all people worldwide who are affected by the virus.

*May God bless you,
Fr. Liam.*