

3rd April 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your families are well. I continue to pray for the Parish each day, along with the needs of our nation and world currently. Please also remember those in poorer countries and refugee camps who do not have the same public services and infrastructure as us. Thank you for your prayers for me and for keeping in touch by phone and e-mail. I will try to reply to e-mails, but it may take a while, but I do read them, and I am grateful for your thoughts, prayers and comments. Below are some announcements that I hope you will find helpful.

Live streaming

Yes, I have had to learn a whole new vocabulary! 'Live streaming' was new to me. I am very grateful to Bryden who has been working with our Diocesan IT Manager to make this happen. Thanks to you both. Our programme for Holy Week, all being well, is as follows-

Palm Sunday Mass – 5th April - 11.15am.

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper – 9th April – 8pm - celebrated by Bishop Richard. The camera will then be focussed on the Tabernacle for watching until midnight.

Good Friday, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – 10th April – 3pm – celebrated by Bishop Richard.

Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil – 11th April – 8.30pm – celebrated by Bishop Richard.

Easter Sunday – 12th April – 11.15am.

The Chrism Mass has been postponed by Bishop Richard, until later in the year. This follows a decision by Pope Francis to postpone his Chrism Mass in the Diocese of Rome.

During the time for Holy Communion, there is a prayer for a spiritual communion written by St Alphonsus Liguori: *My Jesus, I believe that you are truly 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 being there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.* (From A Simple Prayer Book, CTS Publications, 2015).

Easter Duties

The Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020. They have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time and have provided guidance and a prayer to this end. This is attached.

Special Indulgence for the Covid-19 Pandemic

“To assure people of the certainty of grace and mercy, even without the normal recourse to the Sacraments, the Holy Father has granted the gift of a *plenary indulgence* to all those affected by the Corona Virus in various ways. This extends to those suffering from the virus, their families, healthcare workers and the general faithful who are concerned at this time” (Bishop Richard). Further details are also attached.

Offertory

Over the past few weeks there have been times when parishioners have been unable to get to Mass. Early in the New Year there were storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge and then in March the Coronavirus begun to make an impact culminating in our current closure of churches. This has had an impact on our offertory. I am very grateful for those parishioners who have been in touch to arrange standing orders, gift aid and have also sent in cheques and cash, but to further enable parishioners to make their offertory donation to the Parish, if they wish, the Diocese has launched an online 'parish offertory support campaign.' The web link to make this donation is

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory>

The money you donate will go into a central Diocesan pot, so it is important that when you donate you also name the Parish, Arundel Cathedral, or me as your Parish Priest. This will ensure your donation will come to the Parish and not to a different one. Thank you very much for your support and most importantly for your prayers for us all during this time.

With my best wishes and prayers,

Canon David