

10th November 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to appreciate your commitment to your faith despite the difficulties that Covid-19 has brought upon all of us and to reassure you that although we are facing a very difficult time in our history, it will someday be over. The situation we find ourselves is unprecedented but we will not be discouraged. This is a true test of our faith. Always remember 1Peter 1:6-7 which says

“In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

The second wave of coronavirus is here and sadly people are getting infected in huge numbers and our doctors and nurses and all those who work on the frontlines have once again become very busy. We will continue to be grateful to them. Let us always think about them and their families and loved ones and remember them in our prayers. Although they are doing their work, they are risking their lives for us and we genuinely appreciate that. May God continue to protect them.

We have just begun the second lockdown in our country as a result of the second wave of this virus. Families will once again not be able to meet with their friends and loved ones for another four weeks. It is more difficult for our elderly ones who live alone. I want to assure you that you are not alone. God's presence is always with us.

I am very much available should you want to phone me up (presbytery - **01530 832098**) and talk and in an emergency, I am available for a sick visit

It is true that we will not be able to gather in our parish church to worship as a community for the next four weeks but the door is open for only private prayer. We will open the church from 2.00 pm till 4.00pm on Saturdays. I would like you to walk into the church and spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament so that people will be able to pray quietly. If there are people who need confessions, I will attend to them in a safe place. The November dead list envelopes will be on the back of the church for those who would like to request masses for their deceased relatives and friends

Remember that it is important that we keep the social distancing rule whenever you walk into the church to pray. Remember also to wear your face mask and

use the hand sanitizer when you are in the church. Our able stewards will always be there to direct people and to make sure we keep to the instructions.

We will now continue all our masses on zoom at 10.00am everyday including Sundays until the lockdown is over. There will be no zoom mass on Wednesdays.

Here is the Zoom ID: **509 085 4020** for those who do not have it. It will be used both for weekday masses and Sunday masses. When you log in, the system automatically puts you in a waiting room. Be patient and I will let you in before the mass starts.

I thank those who have already sent their offertory donations through the letter box and also encourage everyone who is able despite the financial difficulties to give to the church to do so. You can send it through the post in the presbytery or better still, set up a direct debit for the parish. If you are struggling financially please you do not have to do so. When things get better you may resume your donation to the church. There will be collection basket in the church for those who would like to bring back their offertory envelopes when they come for private prayer. There will be foodbank trolley also positioned in the church for people to donate food for the food bank.

The food bank needs the following:

Rice pudding,

Instant mash

Coffee,

Chocolate bars

Tinned potatoes

Long life juice

Tinned sponge puddings

Toiletries: shower gel; shampoo, soap, deoderant, sanitary products but you are welcome to bring anything all. The stewards will be there to direct you.

Once again, I really appreciate your commitment and urge you to hold onto God in prayer as we look forward to seeing the end of this pandemic.

You are all in my prayers and daily masses and I pray that God will continue to protect all of you during this pandemic and I look forward to seeing you all when the lockdown is over. Stay safe.

Many thanks

Fr Gabriel