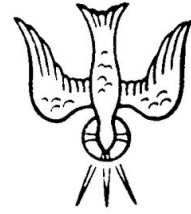


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May 19 2020

Dear Friends

It is now very nearly three months since the wonderful mass of collation and induction on February 23 which began my ministry here at All Saints. Alas, for most of that time we have been living under the lockdown conditions necessary to protect us and the NHS from the coronavirus pandemic. One of the first things to happen was of course that church buildings were closed for public worship. During this time the mass and the daily prayer of the church have continued to be offered within the closed building. Many of you will have been able to follow the mass through the live-stream on the website and facebook page. If you haven't yet found either then please go and seek them out. Mass is offered on Sunday and Tuesday through to Friday at noon and at 6pm on Monday. A simple act of spiritual communion to make at home while watching the mass, especially at the time of communion is included with this letter. A fuller form is on the facebook page

At each of the masses every member of the electoral roll is prayed for by name. I would like to open that list out to include family members and others who consider that they have a link with the parish. So if you have wider family or know of those who would consider themselves part of our wider church family then please, with their or their guardians' permission, please let me have their names and I will add them to the prayer list. I have also been producing a weekly intercession sheet and if you would like to receive this then please let know and make sure that I have your email address. If you have any concerns for prayer that you would like prayed for at the mass and added to the intercession list then please let me have these, either written to the vicarage or by email or text as above.

I have the contact details for many of you but for some I don't have a telephone number or email address; if you would like to pass those on to me then please do. Telephone calls, the WhatsApp group and email have been very useful ways of making and maintaining contact.

In recent years the period between Ascension and Pentecost has been for a novena for prayer, often given the name 'Thy Kingdom Come'. As prayer at home is very much the

order of the day at the moment the Society as produced as booklet of prayers to be used at home during this time of prayer. I enclose a copy of the leaflet, or an electronic version is copied by email, you can either use it on your device or print it out as you wish. As part of this novena and in recognition that May is Mary's month on Thursday May 28 at 7pm a Holy Hour will be live-streamed which will include devotions to the Mother of God, prayer before the sacrament and benediction, and will end with the chiming of the bell at 8pm in support of essential workers.

For those of you for whom I have an email address this will come to you electronically, though I probably will only send one per household so if you have received this then please share with others. Indeed if you think your friends or neighbours would be interested in reading this or praying the novena then please share far and wide.

There is no way of telling how and when churches will be able to open for worship again and it will probably be in a limited way to begin with. As soon as we know then the wardens and I will work to ensure that the building can be opened safely and as quickly as possible.

In these troubling times it is more important than ever that we can maintain some sense of corporate life as the church in this place. Through common prayer, even if it is said in a dispersed way, through joining in the mass and making a spiritual communion then our corporate life as a parish is strengthened.

Please pray for me as I do for you

Your parish priest



Fr. [unclear]

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

*To be made while watching a live-streamed mass as the celebrant receives communion*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you and embrace you with the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus, dwell in your servant in the fulness of your strength, in the perfection of your ways, and in the holiness of your spirit, and rule over every hostile power in the might of your Spirit, and to the glory of your Father. Amen.

May the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ preserve my body and soul to everlasting life. Amen,

+Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory in Heaven and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me  
Body of Christ, save me  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me  
O good Jesus, hear me  
Within Thy wounds hide me  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee  
From the malignant enemy defend me  
In the hour of my death call me  
And bid me come unto Thee  
That with Thy Saints I may praise Thee  
Forever and ever.  
Amen.