



12 March 2020

Dear Father,

Parish Resources for Coronavirus

Over the last few weeks we have issued guidance regarding hygiene practices at church. Thank you for complying with these as best as you have been able. The situation is changing rapidly, and we must do our best to provide for our parishioners at this time.

Although local authorities will have lists of vulnerable individuals, we should perhaps encourage our parishioners to be good neighbours at this time, subject of course, to any restrictions issued by civil authorities. Those with no family in the area and those on low incomes may struggle to have two weeks' worth of food at home if they have to self-isolate, or are in fact ill. Those who rely on 'home helps' may also experience difficulty if their helpers are ill.

The spiritual health of our parishioners is also important at this time.

I attach two documents which you may might to like to make available this weekend, and via your parish website if possible. One is a prayer-leaflet produced by the Liturgy Office of CBCEW. The other is a single page about Spiritual Communion and an Act of Perfect Contrition.

A few churches stream Mass via the internet, and if public worship services are suspended, parishioners can 'take-part' at home, especially in a 'Spiritual Communion' whilst watching Mass. Our Lady & St Michael in Workington has a feed at www.mcnmedia.tv (enter Workington in the Search button), and Canon Watson has kindly agreed to ensure that Mass celebrated from there will have a diocesan flavour to it at this time. We hope that another church in the diocese will have its own feed in a week or so. You might like to include this information in your newsletter this weekend.

These are challenging times, but we can be assured of the help of the Lord, who will never abandon His flock as He is the Good Shepherd.

With all good wishes,

+Paul Swarbrick.

+Paul Swarbrick
Bishop of Lancaster

Our Diocesan Lead/Coordinator is Canon Paul Embery VG. All Coronavirus enquiries must be referred direct to him at: paul.embery@lancasterrcdiocese.org.uk phone 01229 582205 or 07842 660 891