

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi Roman Catholic Parish



12 June 2020

Dear Parishioners & Friends

I hope you are all in good health and coping with the continuing lock-down situation.

Thank you for your faith, expressed in various ways. Thank you for taking care of each other. Thank you for your creativity in organising prayer life.

Since the church was closed, I have been very much impressed with individuals and families who come to the grotto - often for a very, very long time, and some people visit every day. This is a very good testimony! Those who have been will probably have noticed:

- ❖ the grotto and flowers have been maintained
- ❖ we have a new (outside) noticeboard
- ❖ the bench has been sanded down and revarnished
- ❖ the presbytery garage doors (actually both ends of the garage) have been sanded down and painted

Also:

- ❖ There has been a maintained display of flowers in the church
- ❖ The church has been regularly cleaned

A great thank you to all who have worked so hard and so selflessly, especially on a voluntary basis and often donating the materials.

Thank you for continuing to support the Parish financially during these difficult times. As you will appreciate, we are particularly economically challenged as a result of being closed for 3 months so far, and would ask you prayerfully review your current giving.

I am delighted to tell you that from Monday, 15 June, we will be reopening the church for private prayer, every day, from 10am until 6pm. There are a number of conditions imposed by the government and we have put systems in place to meet these requirements, as we understand them:

- ❖ On arrival complete a form giving your contact details, and note your time of arrival at the bottom of the form. Keep this paper with you and then add your time of departure and post it in the secure box when leaving. This information will not be processed in any way and the forms will be stored only for 14 days, and will then be destroyed. We are required to do this in the event that if anyone was in the church and later develops symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, we will then be able to

pass the details to the *NHS Test and Trace* service, for the purpose of informing those who were in the church at the same time or later that day.

- ❖ In the church itself, we have closed some rows to allow people to keep a 2-metre distance from others.
- ❖ We also need to close the Repository during this time.
- ❖ There is also a one-way system to avoid needing to pass others: as with communion walk towards the front of the church in the centre aisle and then leave again walking down the sides.
- ❖ During this time, please use the main entrance only - and not the side entrance with the combination lock.

These measures put in place are based on trust and will be under constant review. Full details will be displayed on the noticeboard.

We are starting daytime Adoration again on Friday 26 June and Rachel Alexander has kindly agreed to organise the rota. If you would like to join, please be in touch either with Rachel directly or myself.

It was lovely to be able to use the Internet so that we could pray the Divine Mercy and Rosary most afternoons and to join the children on Saturday mornings. Similarly praying Lauds and Vespers (aka Morning and Evening Prayers) during Holy Week and then for several weeks afterwards.

Whilst we struggled through using a mobile phone for these sessions, it is simply not possible to live-stream Masses in this way. We are currently looking into (borrowing) the technology needed to provide this and will update you on this and any other developments in due course.

We are all in this together. I keep you in my prayers and I ask you to pray for each other and me. It would be good to seek protection of Our Lady by praying *The Memorare*:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

May God continue pouring out His blessings generously upon us.

Yours

Fr Stan Gibziński

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