

HOLY CROSS PRIORY LEICESTER

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS – A PASTORAL MESSAGE

SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

Pastoral Message from Fr David Rocks OP to all the communities under the Pastoral Care of Holy Cross Priory

Dear Friends,

It has now been quite a while since things felt 'normal', and many weeks since we gathered together. We await the news of 'relaxation' of lockdown as we gather this weekend, but it is clear that there is some time before us yet until this will bring us to a situation that would feel more regular. Please be aware that your priests are here to offer their ministry in whatever ways we can at this difficult time. One suggestion made very recently was that I could send you a 'pastoral message' on a weekly basis. I'm not sure I can commit to that, but I can send one out occasionally. And so here I am.

As I've said before, there are so many members of our communities that minister on the front line, as it were – every level of the NHS, our care homes and schools, shops, essential services. When you are out clapping on Thursdays, please pray for them and their families. These are people we know and love, they have coffee with us on Sundays and we see them at social events, we walk beside them in processions, we chat with them on the street. They're doing an amazing job, and their families are making sacrifices so that can happen. On behalf of all of us, I want to say a sincere word of thanks. It isn't easy

Following the positive meeting on the "Zoom" platform with many of you a week or so ago, we have been able to evolve a simple but effective "Covid-19 Pastoral Plan" that we hope to use to develop our pastoral care and evangelisation strategy during this time of crisis. You'll find a link below:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/gjngzdf493ft435/202004_covid19_pastoralplan.pdf?dl=0

One of the most important things that has emerged from this process is our concern for our children and young people. We would normally be preparing for First Holy Communion right now, and our Confirmation programme was due to resume. I'm very proud of our children and the way they've responded to this crisis. We will be making sure we get some resources for our children and young people online in the next week or so, as you'll see detailed in the plan. I also include this week a letter from one of the young people in our parish, who has some important insights to share on how we can cope with lockdown. I'm grateful to him for sharing his thoughts with us, and I have learned a lot from them. Please see the relevant link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/qfaboivyckntyc/20200502_covid19_youngpersonsmessage.pdf?dl=0

As your parish priest, my ministry amongst you is limited in these days, as I cannot visit you or have the usual contact with you. However, I promise that you are all in my heart and I see each of you vividly every time I am privileged to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In our Gospel for this Sunday, the Lord is helping his disciples to prepare for a new kind of normal. They will need to see him in a new way. While they won't interact with him face-to-face, they will be part of his oneness with the Father. When Philip asks the Lord to show them the Father, he points back at Philip, saying that Philip's own established relationship with the Lord is already offering this opportunity. We have that too. Let's take it.

Be intent on prayer, and whatever may happen will turn to our good.

Fr David Edward Rocks OP PP

Prior