IFORD PARISH OF ST THOMAS MORE AND BOURNEMOUTH ORDINARIATE MISSION
SPECIAL WEEKLY BULLETIN

Notice from Fr Darryl Jordan, Parish Priest

Dear Iford and Ordinariate parishioners,

As many of you know by now, I am with my mother in the States but my return flight was cancelled. I was due to arrive back in England today. I was able to rebook a flight to arrive a fortnight today, 3rd April.

You will also hopefully know by now that no public masses are being celebrated until further notice.

Your Parish Pastoral Council will offer support as they are able. Please contact one of them for any pastoral care needs. There might be occasions when the Church can be open for private prayer but of course that requires someone to be present, preferably two people for security reasons, during that time. We will keep you updated.

I will be offering a private mass for any Mass Intentions already organised, including Foundation Masses and others which appeared in earlier editions of the Weekly Bulletin.

I have included on the next pages a Special Edition Pastoral Letter and Decree from Bishop Philip. I have also attached this form of Spiritual Communion which you might find helpful. I'd encourage you to pray this during the times you'd normally attend Holy Mass.

Please keep my wife Lisa, daughter Catherine, mother Irene and myself in your prayers as we pray for you as well.

In mente Christi,
Fr Darryl

Parish Priest and Group Pastor

Planned Giving: As there will be no collections please consider standing orders. For parish sort code and parish account number, please contact Steve Ferris: 01202 426648|sf1951@hotmail.co.uk. Hopefully these can be published in a forthcoming Bulletin.

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Hospital Chaplaincies: 01202 704221 (Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch NHS Trust); 01202 442167 (Poole NHS Trust)

IFORD PARISH OF ST THOMAS MORE AND BOURNEMOUTH ORDINARIATE MISSION
SPECIAL WEEKLY BULLETIN

PASTORAL LETTER AND DECREE FROM THE BISHOP

on 19th March 2020, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

CORONAVIRUS

Dear Faithful and Clergy of the Diocese of Portsmouth,

"I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you" (Luke 10: 18-19).

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing much harm and concern to us all, both at home and abroad. We do not know why God in His providence has allowed this pandemic to occur. What we do know is that He has given us victory through the death and resurrection of His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ and poured into human history the power of the Holy Spirit to guide all things in the right direction. This is why, in the words of St. Paul, we know that nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. ... These are the trials by which we triumph by the power of Him who loved us. Indeed, we can be certain that neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8: *35-36, 38-39*).

As Catholics, we must tackle this crisis with spiritual as well as human resources. Let us work for an end to this scourge. Let us keep our churches open for prayer and offer daily Mass for the Church and the world. Let us proclaim God's Word, administer the Sacraments and offer pastoral care to God's people in their need. Indeed, the ministry of prayer at this time is crucial. Let us pray for a speedy solution, for those who are sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for those in self-isolation, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the homeless and needy, for the well-being and financial security of all, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick, and for the repose of those who have died.

In advance, I thank our clergy and parish ministers for their generosity and willingness to minister in new and different ways during this crisis. Let us be inspired by St. Camillus, St. Juliana Falconieri, Bl. Pier Giorgio and the many other saints from Church history - not least by the Lord Himself - who cared for the sick and infected, amidst great personal danger and difficulty.

I attach to this Pastoral Letter a Decree with some new norms that now become particular law for this Diocese of Portsmouth. I add to these a few pastoral guidelines, some spiritual, others practical, to help us all over the days ahead. All these provisions come into place today, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and will remain in place until further notification. Lent is a time of penance, prayer and charity: we will remember this Lent and Easter for many years ahead. So let us call on the efficacious prayers and help of St. Joseph. Just as he protected the Infant Jesus, Saviour of the World, and his spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, may he help us now, during this time of emergency.

Assuring you of my prayers and best wishes

In Corde Iesu,

+Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth

IFORD PARISH OF ST THOMAS MORE AND BOURNEMOUTH ORDINARIATE MISSION

SPECIAL WEEKLY BULLETIN

PHILIPPUS

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA

EPISCOPUS PORTUS MAGNI

Measures in Response to the Challenge of the Coronavirus

DECREE

The following provisions are immediately to be put in place:

1. Mass. Public Sunday and weekday Masses are to be suspended. I hereby temporarily release the faithful from the Sunday Obligation. Instead, priests (parish priest and assistant priests) will say a daily Mass in a church within their parish but without the faithful. Other priests (e.g. retired priests) may celebrate Mass without the faithful present in a church, chapel or their private home. Deacons should not participate in these celebrations. The Mass intention can be maintained, unless the family ask for a rescheduling. When there is a concelebrating priest, the main celebrant distributes the Host to him so that he can then receive the Precious Blood by personal intinction. The main celebrant consumes the remaining Precious Blood and purifies the chalice in the usual way.

2. Churches Open. All churches should be kept open during the day for the faithful to visit and to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. I encourage periods of Eucharistic Adoration (with rotas etc. but without public liturgies) so that everyone can find solace in their moment of need. Clergy are encouraged to spend time in church giving pastoral support and responding to requests for the Sacraments. In church, all must take care to ensure 'social distancing,' i.e. maintaining a clear distance from others, with minimal social contact.

3. Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions may be offered as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed (e.g. a physical barrier between the penitent and the priest such as a grille and cloth).

4. Sacraments to the Sick/Housebound. It is important that those who request the Sacraments can receive them. Ministers should wash and cleanse their hands before and after visiting the housebound. Visits to people in care homes should follow advice from staff on infection control.

5. Anointing of the Sick. When anointing the sick, the Oil of the Sick can be applied using a cotton bud which can be burned afterwards (one end for the head and the other for the hands) and the priest extend his hands over the sick person for laying on of hands, without physical contact.

6. Holy Communion. All ministers of the Holy Eucharist must cleanse and sanitise their hands before and after administering the Blessed Sacrament. Communicants are strongly urged to receive on the hand, which is 'safer' than reception on the tongue, with the minister avoiding any physical contact. If a communicant insists on reception on the tongue, the minister should sanitise their hands immediately afterwards.

7. Baptisms. Baptisms might best be deferred until such a time as when people can gather again in numbers safely. In case of necessity, baptisms may be celebrated, strictly limited to the immediate family and within all the various hygiene precautions needed.

8. Matrimony. Weddings might best be deferred until such a time that people can gather again in numbers safely. If this is not possible, the marriage should be limited to the celebrant, bride and groom, immediate family and legal Registrar. Participants might consider a follow-up Liturgy and social gathering at a later date, after the COVID-19 emergency has passed.

9. Funerals. Funeral services may take place only at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery and crematorium authorities. Priests are encouraged to offer a private Mass for the deceased. Again, a Mass in memoriam might be offered later, when people can once again gather in numbers safely.

10. Other Liturgies. First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses should be deferred until a time when people can gather again in numbers. Diocesan celebrations (e.g. the Chrism Mass) will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

11. Devotions, Stations of the Cross, etc. Communal celebrations are suspended, although individual/private devotions are to be encouraged.

12. Holy Water. The use of holy water stoups is suspended. However, the faithful should be invited to have some holy water for use at home.

13. Hymn Books and Collection Plates. Shared hymn books, missals and collection plates should be taken out of use.

14. Veneration. Veneration of relics, the Cross, statues, icons etc. should not take place by kissing or physically touching them.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

1. What the laity can do. The faithful are urged to establish at home a small sacred space or altar. They should avail themselves of alternatives to Mass in order to sustain their faith: e.g.

Make a private visit individually and/or as a family to the Blessed Sacrament in the church on a Sunday (ideally using resources noted next) and/or on other days too in order to make a Spiritual Communion;

Reflecting on the Sunday Liturgical texts (prayers and Readings), reading the Bible, reading the texts from the Magnificat, using a Treasury of Prayer and saying the Rosary;

Participating in a Sunday Mass online, making a Spiritual Communion;

Using on-line resources such as Universalis in order to say parts of the Liturgy of the Hours;

consulting the Diocesan website for further prayers, ideas, videos and suggestions.

2. Prayer and Entreaty. Everyone should regularly say prayers for an end to this scourge, for the sick, for those affected materially and financially, and for the medical staff caring for the sick. A Prayer in Time of Epidemics from the Roman Ritual will be distributed for use.

3. Hygiene. In churches, good hygiene should be ensured. All should cleanse their hands upon entering. Cleaning of surfaces (e.g. door handles) that people touch should be ensured. Catering (coffee etc.) should be suspended.

4. Care of Dying. Hospitals and care homes are urged to enable the priest to visit Catholics who are dying in order for the Last Sacraments and Apostolic Pardon to be administered. This will need negotiation on a case by case basis.

5. Parish Life. Many aspects of parish life will need to be suspended or amended on a case by case basis, especially in the absence of public liturgies. Private meetings (e.g. a parish-staff meeting), subject to appropriate safeguards and hygiene advice, might be permitted.

6. Charity and Community Welfare. Parishes should do their best to continue their works of charity, care for the sick, the needy, the poor, the lonely, those in self-isolation, the homeless, those dependent on food banks etc.

7. Support of the Church. The faithful are urged to continue generously supporting their parishes, which otherwise will lose vital income. Donations can be made through the parish and diocesan websites. It is also possible easily to set up a Standing Order to your local parish by requesting a form from your parish or directly with your bank, giving them the parish banking details. For more on this, contact cshore@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 023 9421 6457. Visit the diocesan website for more information.

Given on this 19th March 2020, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.



Bishop of Portsmouth Notarius