

stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com

*Dear parishioners and friends,*

*I have spent the last couple of days collating as many emails as I can find from various sources: the parish census, the gift aid list, and those who have attended recent Masses.*

*The first thing to be said is that if you don't wish to receive these emails, then please reply to this email message and I will delete you from this parish contact group.*

*Secondly, if you know of anybody who would like to receive these parish updates by email, then please let them know, and if they would send me their email address, then they will be included.*

*Of course, you can print out the emails, or their attachments, and distribute them to anybody who is not able to access them using a computer. All these ways of staying in touch with each other will be expressions of our Christian desire to maintain and continue to develop our community bonds of love and concern.*

*I have set up a new email address (see the top of the page) from which I will send out all communications, and to which you can send me any news or information that you think might be of benefit to the parish community.*

*I don't want to reiterate here all the information that can be found elsewhere — for example, on the website of the Salford Diocese:*

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/latest-updates-on-covid-19/>

*As a parish of the Diocese of Salford we will be adhering to all diocesan guidelines, which are, in themselves, derived from government guidelines. The fundamental principle is that of the minimisation of social contact, and the possible exposure to coronavirus which any of us might be unwittingly carrying before any symptoms display.*

*Our challenge as a parish community is to provide whatever support and encouragement that we can to each other, especially by maintaining our confidence and trust in a loving God who can bring forth the most marvellous triumphs in times of adversity.*

*Just to let you know immediately that Fr Peter Wilkinson and I will be working closely together as we ponder on our role as priests serving our parish communities in such unprecedented times. We can assure you that Mass will be offered every day for the intentions of our parishes of The Good Shepherd and St John Southworth's. Although the Masses will not be open to the public, you will be able to enter into a degree of participation online. This can be accessed through the website of the parish of the Good Shepherd, Colne, or directly through this link:*

<http://www.churchservices.tv/colne>

*Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am*

*Weekday Mass (including Saturday) will be celebrated at 10.00am*

*It will be permissible for churches to provide some periods of time when they can be open for a visit, and Joe Gibbons will be putting together a rota to staff the church during these hours.*

*That's all for now: stay safe, and stay in touch!*

*Fr Gerard*