

Sunday 3rd May
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I hope and pray (literally) that you are keeping safe and well as the lockdown continues for most of us, and I extend my sincere thanks to those of you who are working on the front line and as key workers in whatever capacity. I have some understanding of the concerns and stresses that this places on you and your families, having nurses and other key workers in my family.

As far as the parish is concerned, there is very little to report. The live-streaming seems to continue to be appreciated by many of you within the parish, but also by people throughout Europe, USA and Canada, Italy and New Zealand to name a few from where I have received emails. It is a novel and interesting experience to receive feedback from the things I say and explanations I give about the Word of God at these Masses from people all over the world. I experience it as a responsibility but also as a great privilege.

One subject I am never happy talking about, but one that does not away, as you are all too aware, is finance. As far as the parish is concerned, I am waiting for the April bank statement, but know that since the beginning of the lockdown, our bank account has dropped by several thousands of pounds. The new boiler at Holy Saviour's has now been installed, but won't be commissioned until I am able to meet with the installer on site. However, the final bill, which has not yet arrived, will be not too far off £20,000. If you are able and willing to initiate a Standing Order to give your parish collection, I enclose a Standing Order form and ask that you return it to me at The Presbytery, 25 Queen Street, Colne BB8 9NB so that I can acknowledge it and forward it to your bank, particularly if you are able to Gift Aid it. Please remember that you can cancel Standing Orders at any time and can therefore set one up just for the lockdown and then cancel it when we return to 'normal'.

If you wish to give a single donation, that can be pushed through any of our presbytery doors and I'll know what it's for, or you can make a single donation of any amount using the diocesan website facility.

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/supporting-your-parish-financially/>

If all of that is a lot to type, just go on the diocesan website and click on the donate button which will direct you to that page. You will be able to select which parish or other diocesan charity you wish to donate to.

Although charity begins at home, it certainly doesn't end there.

I've been in touch with Bishop Raymond, whom you may remember stayed with us briefly last May. He is in the north of Zimbabwe, in the poorest part, and says that they can only diagnose the corona-virus through observing symptoms. They don't have the facility to test, have little protective equipment and certainly don't have ventilators. He says, "we live by grace."

Also, Cafod are very anxious about their existing projects and about the additional calls on their help that they are receiving now when even their regular donations are dropping. Here is their request:

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal.

In addition, Cafod have asked that I pass on the following information to you about other resources you may wish to access.

Adapting parish life to lockdown

- cafod.org.uk/parishes has a **two-minute video message from me about the appeal** – please consider sharing this with your congregations however you are in touch – whether in online Masses or gatherings you're doing, or just by putting the link in an email
- Also at cafod.org.uk/parishes you'll find tips for gathering virtually, prayer resources, children's activities and our step-by-step guide to set up a **parish collection page online**.
- ideas from parishes round the country about [getting online as a parish community](#)
- we also have a programme of [online talks](#) about our response work as well as a weekly live-streamed Mass and Sunday Children's Liturgy, and next week this will include a webinar on getting your parish collections and community fundraising online.

Finally, I repeat my promises of prayers for you and your families. May God keep you all safe and well, and speed the day when we can be corporate Church, united not just spiritually but also physically present to each other at the table of the Lord. God bless you all.

Fr. Peter

Our live-streamed Masses, which are also recorded, continue and are on Sundays at 9.30am and Monday to Saturday at 10.00am. I am delighted that we can join with Fr. Gerard and St. John Southworth parish, Nelson, in making this provision and forging a link between the parishes which I am sure will prove very rewarding in the future.

Good Shepherd Parish, Colne

Standing Order Mandate

Name and address of your bank:

PLEASE PRINT

Bank plc

Please pay to

BARCLAYS (20-55-34)
Barclays Business Centre, Manchester City Office, PO Box 357
51 Mosley Street, Manchester, M60 2AU

Payment details:

For the credit of SRCDTR THE GOOD SHEPHERD COLNE
REGISTERED CHARITY Account No. 50869627

the sum of £ : () pounds
on the day of 2020 and a like sum on the
day of each month thereafter until further notice.

Your bank details:

Account Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Bank Sort Code: _____

Your signature:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Your title, full name and address:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss, etc): _____

Full name: _____

PLEASE PRINT

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel No: _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION If you wish to Gift Aid your donations please read and sign here.

(You must pay an amount of Income or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on your donations in an appropriate tax year)

I wish Good Shepherd Parish, Colne, to treat as Gift Aid all donations made from the date of this declaration until further notice

Signed:

Date:

PLEASE RETURN TO Rev Peter Wilkinson

25 Queen Street, Colne, Lancashire. BB8 9N

Please do not send this form directly to your bank.