

I am writing this on Wednesday evening.

We have just received an email from Bishop John which includes a statement about the lockdown from the President and Vice-president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

As expected, the interventions of numerous MPs on behalf of Faith communities has had no impact on the outcome of the vote and all religious, communal activities are now prohibited by law with the exception of funerals, under certain restrictions. Mass, Baptisms and Weddings may not be celebrated. Mass may only be celebrated in private with live-streaming as an option.

Therefore, until the 2nd December (unless we hear otherwise) churches will not be open for any services except funerals and then with restrictions. Churches may be opened for private prayer.

All congregational Masses will therefore not be celebrated from midnight tonight until further notice. Information about Masses being live-streamed and times for private prayer will be announced in the newsletter for next Sunday.

You may read the statement by the bishops by clicking on this link:

[Statement by the Bishops' Conference](#)

The bishops ask that we should quietly join in prayer with each other at 6pm each evening, which is a traditional time when Catholics are called to prayer by the ringing of the Angelus from churches that have bells.

God bless and pray for each other,
Fr. Peter