

March 20th 2020

“Closed for the Duration”

These famous words appeared on many shops during the Second World War, but now we, the priests and people of St John’s West Worthing must use them to indicate that there will be no public church services now until this Virus has been defeated. **THIS MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO FAMILY MASS ON MOTHERING SUNDAY**, so if you are able to be together with your Mum in a Restaurant, please enjoy your time together, and be assured of our prayers for you and your family. However from this Sunday the south Porch will be open every day from 0900 - 1700 for you to light a candle and say your prayers. It seems this is the best we can do for you at the moment. You will need to use the sanitiser systems there please.

On top of that we shall “live stream” a Mass on the St John’s Facebook Account every Wednesday at 1100 and on the Feasts like Palm Sunday at 1000. If you don’t have the details of the St John’s Facebook Account we will put them up here for next Sunday.

Those who go to the Shrine at Walsingham will be delighted to know that Shrine Prayers will be live streamed in the same way each night. Again details for next week.

Communion

We know that at the heart of our worship is the meeting with Jesus in his body and blood at the heart of the Mass. When many of us were young we came to Mass at 0800 and received the sacrament, and returned at 1100 for the pure worship of a sung High Mass with lovely Liturgy and beautiful music at the heart of this we were taught to make an “Act of Spiritual Communion” such as “O Lord Jesus, I believe that you are here with me and I love you. I have you in my heart as Mary once carried in your womb, and I ask that you will guide me in my life this week.” “Today I pray for all those suffering from this virus, and those fighting to find a cure, or treating all sufferers. I pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, this week most especially: *please use last week’s notice sheet.*”

Until this storm passes we must learn again the way our forefathers prayed. In the Middle Ages as people went from Mass to Mass, as the Priest Elevated the Host i.e. Jesus deliberately hiding himself “in the form of bread and wine”, they would shout “heave him higher Sire Priest”!!! WE know that is far from being as good as meeting Jesus in our lives....BUT it gives us a start in this strange time as we battle with things “visible and invisible”

Each day your priests will say mass in the Lady Chapel for you but, sadly, without you at the usual times Mon, Wed and Sat, and about 1700 Tuesday and Thursday. Pray for us as we will pray for you in what the Archbishops have called “an offering of prayer and praise for the For the nation and for the world”!

So pray for us as we do pray for you.