

Emergency response to the coronavirus - 18 March 2020

On 18th March the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, published steps to be taken in the light of the Coronavirus crisis. Their severity brings home the seriousness of the situation we face.

Along with all the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales, ***the Archbishop has directed that from the evening of Friday 20th March no public acts of worship are to take place until further notice in any of our churches throughout the Archdiocese, including the Isle of Man.***

Notices to this effect have been placed on the doors of our churches, circulated by email and will be placed on our website www.manxcatholic.org

The Bishops have stated that ***the traditional Catholic obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days is removed for as long as this crisis continues.*** It is important that this reassurance is communicated to our older parishioners who make valiant efforts to attend Mass each week.

As a consequence of the Archbishop's directive, as far as possible, Mass will be celebrated *behind closed doors without a public congregation and streamed online* at the following times: **5.00pm on Saturday evenings and 11.00am on Sunday mornings.**

Daily Mass will also be live streamed on **Monday to Friday at 12.10pm**. Please go to www.manxcatholic.org and click on 'Live Stream'. Further opportunities to participate in live streamed Masses will appear in due course on the Archdiocesan website www.liverpoolcatholic.org

In addition, St Mary's church *will remain open (for private prayer only)* as follows:

Monday to Fridays 9.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 18.00
Saturdays 9.00 to 16.45
Sundays 8.00 to 10.00 and 12.00 to 18.00

Since our churches at St Joseph's Willaston and St Anthony's, Onchan are customarily closed apart from Mass and service times they will remain closed until further notice.

The Archbishop has also given us this special prayer for wider distribution in this time of peril:

A PRAYER IN TIME OF DANGER AND ILLNESS.

***God Our Father, each person is precious to You. You are the Giver of life.
Have mercy on us and protect us at this time, as the Coronavirus threatens health and life.
You are an ever-present Helper in time of trouble.
Watch over those who are suffering, give strength to those who are aiding the Sick
and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.
We ask this of you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.***

Other details and regular updates will be found on www.manxcatholic.org as they arise.

With many thanks and every good wish
Fr John Devine

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