



THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Tel: 020 8946 0305

Email: wimparish@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Web: www.sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk

Sacred Heart Presbytery

Edge Hill, Wimbledon

London, SW19 4LU

Laetare Sunday 22 March.

My dear people,

I am reminded of the story of Fr Damian at the leper colony in the far east. He would begin his homilies with the phrase, 'You lepers', until one day he began his talk, 'We lepers'. We are all of us having to adapt to the changing circumstances, not least the adoption of self-isolation. For some of us that will be for a week, or possibly two weeks. For those like me over the age of 70 and with a serious underlying illness the isolation is initially for three months. It is not something I am looking forward to but if it keeps us safe then it will be worth it. For all of you preparing to enter into such self-isolation, I know what you are going through and can only assure you of my prayers.

I have been asked to pen a few words each week in line with the Gospel readings, to help us keep our minds focused on the presence of the loving God in our lives. This Sunday, the nearest Sunday to the feast of the Annunciation is Mother's Day. Sadly we won't be able to mark it as we usually do. The mums in the parish will have to accept our love and best wishes on the day and a bunch of virtual flowers! The day reminds us of the role of Mary, both in the life of Jesus and in the life of the church. In the person of Mary we have the example of the perfect mother. Jesus in the midst of his own suffering witnessed to the Church his love and concern for it by giving us Mary as our mother. It is only right that we turn to her at this time of our great need and seek her loving consolation. In life she constantly directed others away from herself and directed them to Jesus her son. That is still her role. If we have time for her in our life, we will find time for Jesus and that in turn will help us find time for him in our daily lives.

There are many ways we can use this time to deepen our love for Jesus and help our children know what it is to pray. We have Mass each day streamed at 10am. This includes Sunday. We are for the time being released from the obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday. However we can gather as a family to join our prayers with those of the parish as the Mass is taking place. Why not prepare your own little family altar that the children could use as a focus for their prayers. It may be possible to say a decade of the Rosary each evening asking Our Lady's blessing on the family and the parish, remembering especially those who are enduring self isolation. Allow the children to be inventive in their suggestions as to how you as a family can mark this challenging time.

One of the best ways we can share in prayer is by making a 'Spiritual Communion'. I believe a copy has been circulated. I will check that and will include a further copy with next week's letter.

Finally today is Laetare Sunday, or 'Rejoice' Sunday the middle Sunday of Lent, usually a time to celebrate when we ease the Lenten penances. It may be a bit soon before we do that again, but do take the message of the reading today to heart and rejoice. The man born blind has his sight restored and exhibited his faith in Jesus. May be we need to look afresh on Jesus our Saviour and our Lord who in his suffering and death brought salvation to the world.

Fr John

Some Notes

We have to make some amendments to the confessionals which we hope to do by next weekend. After that there will be confessions 10:30-11:30 each Saturday.

A Private Mass with only priest and server in attendance will be read each day including Sunday at 10:00am. This Mass is streamed.

Next Week I will give you more details about the administration of the sacraments.

There will be no 'At Home' now until further notice. If you want to have a word do ring the office number 0208 946 0305

School forms will not be collected from now on.

Do remember the young people preparing for public examinations. May they find support in this changing time. We pray for all who work in the NHS and supporting services and for the sick and lonely in our society.

God Bless you all.