

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parishioner,

We have just received a letter from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales regarding the suspension of church services.

It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. **There will be no public celebration of Mass at St Aidan's with immediate effect until further notice.**

Our church will be open from 10.00am – 12noon on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer where you find solace and strength. Entrance will be via the side door. We will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing. Please make sure you sit 2m/6ft away from other parishioners.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

If you would like to watch a live stream of a Mass, please go to the Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/> or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

Baptisms, and the preparation of candidates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can gather safely.

Please speak to Fr Ken directly regarding arrangements for funerals.

We will no longer be live streaming the Ordination Mass of Bishop Elect David Oakley tomorrow morning (Thursday 11.00am), which is now taking place without a congregation. If you would like to watch it at home please go to the Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/important-episcopal-ordination/> where you will also be able to download an order of service.

Are you an elderly or vulnerable parishioner who is worried about loneliness, or being able to run errands such as grocery shopping or collection of medication from the pharmacy?  
Are you under 70 and healthy and would be prepared to 'buddy' one of our vulnerable members and help them with errands such as these or a friendly phone call every so often?  
If you fall into either of these categories please either reply to this email or call Fr Ken, giving details of the help you need/can provide, and a contact telephone number/email, and we will do our best to match you up. By replying and giving your details you are consenting to us passing your details on. Full details of our GDPR policy can be found on the diocesan website.

Louise Moss, Parish Secretary,  
on behalf of Fr Ken  
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