

Important announcements during period of Covid-19 (Last updated 11.30am, 3 April 2020)

Church now closed

As we are now in 'lockdown' the church building is now completely closed. Remember though that it is the building which is closed not the church. You are the church. Be open.

Care of the Sick and Dying

The current health emergency has led to radical changes in our hospitals. To protect staff and patients, new rules essentially prevent almost all visits to in-patients.

One side-effect of this is that priests will not have the same access to patients in hospitals they have always had up until now. In particular, patients with Covid-19 are strictly isolated even from their own families.

The Archbishop is anxious to provide, as far as possible, support to the sick and dying in these terrible circumstances. In recent days Pope Francis has approved a new decree which, during the current crisis, provides the option of a plenary indulgence (the remittance of all temporal punishment for sins forgiven) to those who cannot receive the Last Rites of the Church and the Archbishop wishes this to be widely known.

Full details of the decree and what is required may be found [here](#).

Other Frequently Asked Questions

Click [here](#) for more information on other matters including confession, Easter duties and the obligation to attend mass on Sundays.

Parish Hall

The hall is closed until further notice.

Live Streaming – Spiritual Communion

A number of you may be following live streaming Mass from either the Cathedral or some other church. Those who are will not be able to receive Christ sacramentally in Holy Communion. However, I am glad to tell you that you can receive the Lord spiritually in an act of Spiritual Communion through your desire to receive the Sacrament, through your prayer and your faith. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion written by St Alphonsus Liguori, that people who for any reason cannot receive Holy Communion sacramentally are encouraged to say:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Practical Matters

As with everyone else the crisis is going to have a serious effect on parish finances. The loss of income from our weekly Offertory Collection will be substantial and may have a lasting effect. I appeal to your continued generosity and support for our parish. It would very helpful if you could continue to contribute weekly or monthly. I recognise that many of you are facing your own financial worries and will have to make hard choices, so I am most grateful for anything you can still contribute to our Parish.

Gift Aid

Envelope sets for the new tax year will be available for collection from the sacristy once the church re-opens. If you are in the scheme please collect your book. For the moment, perhaps you could make your offering by standing order. You may either download the banker's order form from the website, complete and send to your own bank or, if you use online banking, you can set up an instruction using the account details on the form. Please use your envelope number as the payment reference.

Non-gift aided offerings

Offerings may be made using online banking. The parish bank account details which you will need are set out on the banker's order form accessible from the Gift Aid area of the website. If you wish, you can also use those details to set up a standing order online. If you would like to join the Gift Aid

Scheme as well, please download and complete the joining form and return to kmcmanus@ourladyandsthelen.org

With my prayers and best wishes to you all, John Mulholland, Parish Priest

A personal appeal from Archbishop Tartaglia

My dear friend.

The current emergency means our churches have had to close, but costs remain and some parishes are in a difficult situation.

If your own circumstances allow it, please consider helping us by donating £5 during this worrying time.

We have set up a system whereby you can simply text RCARCHGLA to 70085 to donate £5.

Please share this emergency donation option with others, especially those who may be anxious because they normally contribute to their parish through collection envelopes.

Thank you to all of you who are united with us in this difficult time. God bless you and your family.

+Philip Tartaglia

Archbishop