



## St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Dear Parishioners,

in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. Following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time our Bishops have directed that we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will take effect from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our church will remain open for a few hours every day. It is not closing. In visiting the church at this time, please observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing. However, the celebration of one Mass here, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are many ways in which we can do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially those who are elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

The Cardinal has written a letter to us all about these unprecedented times – there are copies on the table in the porch. There is also a list of parishes in the Diocese where Mass is livestreamed on the internet. That list is on the table as well.

Let us continue to pray for each other, for those who are sick, those caring for them in the NHS, and all those working hard to find remedies and a vaccine for the virus.

May God bless us all!

**Fr Séamus**

**Parish Priest**