

OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER AND ST THOMAS MORE

LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Sunday, 19th April 2020

Easter Greetings. May I begin by wishing “Happy Easter” to any parishioners I have not been able to contact. Nowadays one really means it when one enquires after the health of a friend or wishes them well, and I do so hope you are well. A number of people in the parish have not been well, and many of us are mourning the death of relations or friends. Even if we find we are angry with God, let us be thankful we have God to be angry with. May our faith in the real presence among us of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, sustain us and enable us to be a real support to others.

Daily Mass at Holy Redeemer. Though the current regulations do not allow a congregation to be present, I am celebrating Mass each day. Mass is offered both for the intentions of all parishioners, and for particular intentions as requested by parishioners. If you would like a Mass to be celebrated for someone, please email or post the details to me. However, please note, as only one intention can be allocated to a particular day, this is done on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Mass on the Internet. Many parishioners have told me how much they have appreciated being able to follow Mass and the Easter ceremonies from various churches, including Westminster Cathedral and St Peter’s in Rome. While nothing in these difficult times is as we would like it to be, especially touching were the Veneration of the Crown of Thorns from Notre Dame, Paris, and The Way of the Cross from St Peter’s Square. (Odd isn’t it, how English speakers insist on calling “square” a space that is almost circular.) If you want details of churches which are live streaming Mass, please see “Mass Streaming and other useful websites”, also under the heading ‘Newsletters’ on our parish website.

Volunteering. Many charities and boroughs are looking for volunteers, among them our Diocesan charity ‘Caritas Westminster’. To see exactly what help they are looking for please go to their website caritaswestminster.org.uk and look under the heading ‘Volunteer’.

Prayer. Not everyone is able to work as a volunteer, for all sorts of very good reasons. Nevertheless, we can all support those who are helping others with our prayer. Let us pray for the sick, those who care for them (whether at home or in hospital), those who have died and those who mourn. Then there are those whose work may not be so much in the spotlight: all those who keep the country running. While some are officially classified as “Key Workers”, it is important to remember also all those whose roles may not be designated as such, but without whom our lives would soon become much less pleasant. With my prayers for you and yours, please pray for me.

Canon Paschal Ryan

paschalryan@rcdow.org.uk