



**VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOLLOWING THE PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT THIS EVENING MARCH 23rd 2020**

Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear brothers in Christ,

As directed by the government tonight, **all places of worship must now close as part of the Coronavirus lockdown of the UK**. This situation comes into force immediately and will be reviewed in three weeks' time, so it also affects our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. I will send out details about those later in the week.

This means that our churches must now remain closed. Please do put a notice on your church door first thing in the morning, and leave a message on your house phone and on your website, to help communicate this new situation to your parishioners and to all who might wish to call in to pray.

Funeral Services may take place, not in church, but at the Crematorium or the graveside, under certain restrictions laid out by the Crematorium or Cemetery authorities. If you have Funeral Services coming up soon, please be in immediate contact with the Funeral Director to check details.

It is now even more important pastorally that, as priests, you continue to celebrate Mass on behalf of your parishioners each day, with locked doors, and that you inform them that this is what you are doing. If you have access to streaming possibilities please do make use of these and let Fr Jonathan know. He can then ensure that the details of streamed Masses can be gathered together and then communicated on the diocesan website and on your parish website. As you know, I am regularly streaming Masses and other devotions from Bishop's House, and these can be found on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3Kl8GD79FotjQ>

With continued prayer and good wishes,

+ Patrick

**Right Reverend Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham**