

Latest news from St.Dominic's – March 26 2020

Dear friends, you will know by now that we have to close our churches completely. This is a huge sadness to me as no doubt it will be to you. I hope it will not be too long before we can open them again. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for each other. Each week I will try to send you something to help you along with any developments that have taken place. On this website each Saturday you will find our newsletter with the Sunday readings for you to be able to follow the Mass at home. There is also a sample Sunday Liturgy for you to use with your families if you wish. Thanks to Michelle Mayer for sorting all this out for us.

Prayers – please pray for Paul Kamm, whose funeral took place yesterday and Terry Coyle, whose funeral is taking place today. Next week the funerals will take place of Joyce Hopkins and Frances Chapman. The crematorium have now been instructed to restrict the number of people present to 10, so that is a big challenge for families. We will have proper memorial services for them all later in the year. Please pray also for Margaret France and Dorothy Saxby who remain in hospital and also of course for Fr.Terry, who is quite confused and lonely at the moment.

Technological developments – we have managed to create a YouTube recording facility and I recorded a message for you yesterday which has gone out. We hope to be able to record the Sunday Mass on a Saturday so that it will be available for you on Sunday morning. It is nothing like we used to have but better than nothing. Thanks to Mark Rowley and Tim Broom for this. To access the recording you go on YouTube to St.Dominic's Community or directly to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UGspZ5bqnjy5U-1HOZqxjTTg>

We are also trying to put together an email file to contact all those of you who have given in their email addresses, while ensuring that the privacy of each person is respected. This is proving a little difficult and Kevin Mullan is working on it for us. If anyone else has experience of setting up such files, I would be glad to hear from you. I am very anxious to stay in direct contact with you as much as is possible. Not everyone knows about this website so please make it known to your friends.

Care of the elderly – many people have 'self-isolated' and rightly so. A group of you have offered to get in contact with someone in your local area and I will be asking you to phone one or two people in the next few days. You may also feel able to deliver an Easter egg to them and to print off details from this site to put through their doors. As with so many details of this crisis, the logistics of organising something pastoral are very complicated especially as the situation changes daily. I hope that our First Communion children will keep in touch with their prayer partners by phone on a regular basis.

Reflection – I have a dear friend, Fr.Jonathan Moore, who lives in retirement in Glossop having endured serious health problems for several years now. He has written a lovely poem for yesterday's feast which I am happy to include here with many thanks to him. Kindest regards and prayers to you all and please pray for me. Fr.Frank

Annunciation – March 25 2020

This poem for today's feast was written by Fr. Jonathan Moore of our diocese

The dust-disturbing beat of wings blew gentle in her hair,
The timeless pulse of Spirit breath electrified the air,
And Miriam paused in puzzlement,
alert,
afraid,
then came the voice:
"The Lord is with you, Miriam. Rejoice!"

Rejoice? The fear of unknown power constricts her heart!
What can this greeting mean? And on her part
She questions in her soul with growing dread
The import of the words the Angel said.

Responding to her fear the Angel speaks anew:
"Don't be afraid - the Lord God favours you!
Now listen, you are needed in God's plan,
His Word will take your flesh and dwell on earth as man.

You are to bear a child, the Son of God Most High,
And Jesus named, a Man of Destiny,
He will be great, and David's throne of old
He'll take as Saviour King so long foretold."

What kind of answer's that for Mary's fears?
No reassurance, more dark mystery she hears!
Within her heart, she'll serve God if she can,
But how to bear a son? She knows not man.

"Oh Mary!" says the Angel "Just believe
That through the Holy Spirit you'll conceive
A child of wonder, God's Son to be known,
The Father's Sole Begotten - and your own."

Then God and all creation wait till she replies,
"Thus let God's will be done in me!" the Maiden cries.
"God's Word I welcome to my soul and womb and heart,
In faith and humble trust I'll play my part."

Then all the longing universe sighed in relief,
The Handmaid's doubting, mastered by belief,
Brought,
Spirit-begotten,
Virgin-womb caressed,
Redemption's Worker to a world distressed.