

**From : Fr Anton Jerome
Parish Priest
St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church
Kidbrooke**

18 March 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Archbishop John Wilson has written to us today advising us that with effect from Friday, 20 March 2020 and until further notice, in order to keep each other safe, we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. **Our churches will remain open, they are not closing.** He hopes that “ they will be a focal point of prayer where we will find solace and strength.” However, **the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and during the week will take place without a public congregation.**

Cardinal Nichols also added that “Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated: joining in spiritually in that celebration and (where available) watching the live streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home, making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.” **He also added that in these emergency circumstances, exceptionally, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.**

Here in Kidbrooke, I shall be **celebrating Mass at 9.30 am each morning during the week, Monday - Saturday and at 10am on Sunday** and I ask that you **join me in prayer** rather than in person. I should emphasise that until further notice, **public worship is not allowed.** Additionally, I will keep the **Church open every day: Monday to Saturday from 10am to 1pm and from 11am to 5pm on Sundays** so that, if you wish, you can call into the church for prayer. All I ask is that, **when visiting the Church, you observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.** I am looking into the possibility of live streaming the masses and will let you know if this is successful and how you will be able to access it.

Finally, please keep safe and also be attentive to the needs of others, especially the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. Also remember that Prayer is a powerful weapon in our fight against this virus. Please keep the whole world in your prayer at this difficult time and especially our community here in Kidbrooke. We should also remember the emergency services and everyone working on finding an effective way to deal with the virus.

God Bless you all.

Fr Anton