



St Theresa's Presbytery
High Lane
Stansted Mountfitchet
CM24 8LQ

5th November 2020

Dear Friends

We find ourselves in Lockdown version two. The government have made the decision that we can be open for private prayer, but not allowed to gather for Mass. When pressed by the Cardinal Vincent Nichols on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, for sight of the scientific evidence to justify the closure, none was forthcoming. Again, the government's scientific advisers, Sir Patrick Vallance, and Professor Chris Whitty, were questioned by the Parliamentary Committee on this point on Tuesday, and they stated that there was 'no proper data to support church closures.' This is an astonishing admission to make.

Yet closed we are for public worship, and we are back to Livestreaming the Mass. As I have already mentioned, we are experiencing some technical difficulties with our new livestreaming service Church TV. The problem seems to be at our end, and a solution for the 'white noise' is being sought. In the meantime we will return to livestreaming via our YouTube Chanel from Friday 6th November.

In addition to the live streaming of the Mass, Deacon Des will resume the broadcasting of The Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on Wednesday and Friday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. these will start on Wednesday 11th November.

This Sunday is of course Remembrance Sunday and Deacon Des will be our preacher at the livestreamed Mass at 10:00am which will conclude with an Act of Remembrance. Do please tune in and join us in prayer.

The final confirmation of lockdown with the vote in Parliament came on Wednesday afternoon 4th November, and thanks to a herculean effort on the part of Clair our parish administrator and our volunteer stewards, we have managed to establish a rota for opening the Church for one hour each day (apart from a Monday). So, from today (Thursday 5th November) we are open from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesday's, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; and from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on a Sunday. Can I express our sincere thanks to those who have volunteered as stewards not just in the coming weeks but over the past few months, we would not have been able to offer Mass or open for Private Prayer without your dedication so Thank You all.

In addition to our stewards we have had volunteers who have come into Church to do the deep clean required by Health and Safety in order to open Church. So, to our cleaning volunteers who will continue to clean, a huge thank you to you too.

Parish life isn't just about a clergy team, its about a community coming together to worship and to serve. This parish community does that day in and day out, and Deacon Des and I are proud to belong to such a community. Do please be assured of our continued prayer and support for you, and please keep us in your prayers too.

God bless you all

Fr Lee