

Fr Daniel's statement on the second lockdown

You have most likely heard the news about the second national lockdown, and may be wondering what it means for our parish. Looking at the Government guidance, places of worship will have to close for the duration of these measures (with limited exceptions). This is very sad for me and I'm sure for all of us. I am very proud of how this community has come together to provide fitting worship in these difficult times. In particular I thank our stewards, co-ordinators, readers, musicians, 'booking officers', florists and so forth. But we have to do what is right for the good of the wider community. Hopefully these new measures will be brief.

The guidance does mention an exemption for 'individual prayer'. I have not had any message from the Bishops about what this means for us. However, I do not propose having sessions purely for private prayer for the time being. If the lockdown is extended further we will consider doing this if possible.

So public worship is cancelled until further notice. I will, of course, be able to visit parishioners if there is serious illness – please note that this does not have to be at the very end of life. The emergency system number can be found on the front of the newsletter.

If people have requested Mass intentions for particular dates I will endeavour to say these as close to the date as possible.

I will continue to publish the newsletter and this will be distributed in the usual way via e-mail and on the website.

Please do contact the presbytery by telephone if you require anything.

With best wishes to you and your families

Fr Daniel Palmer

3rd November, 2020