

Fr. Martin writes:

## **NO PUBLIC MASSES AND OTHER LITURGIES FROM FRIDAY 20TH MARCH**

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have decided that from Friday (20<sup>th</sup> March), public Masses and other liturgies will be suspended until further notice.

Starting from this Saturday, St. Joseph's, Rawmarsh will be open on Saturday afternoons between 2-3.30pm and St. Joseph's, Wath will be open on Sunday afternoons between 2-3.30pm for people to come in and pray. I will be available during these times.

Both St. Joseph's, Rawmarsh and Our Lady and St. Joseph's, Wath schools have decided that the school Masses this Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> March) are not open to the public.

The Journey in Faith meetings and the Praying with the Sunday Gospel group will be cancelled with immediate effect. I will be contacting those affected in due course.

This week and next I will post a note through the letterboxes of those on my home Communion round with details of how to stay in touch, asking them to confirm their contact details and also if they still want me to visit.

I am looking into ways of how to keep in touch via phone, email and social media. If you wish to be added to a contact list for this purpose then please email [sjwandsjr@gmail.com](mailto:sjwandsjr@gmail.com) or phone 0114 2321441.

The suspension of public Masses will obviously have a dramatic financial effect on the parishes with costs still having to be met. Please consider setting up a standing order. The parishes' bank details are:

St. Josephs Wath upon Dearne, Sort Code: 404107, Account Number: 51094742

St. Josephs Rawmarsh, Sort Sode: 404107, Account Number: 11094238

This is obviously a distressing and upsetting time but we can all be united in our faith and in prayer. A way we could do this as a parish would be to spend a moment in prayer either at 6.30pm on Saturday evening, 9.15am or 11.15am on a Sunday morning depending on at what Mass we would have ordinarily worshipped. We would be then joined together in prayer with those whom we would have normally seen.

I will still be privately celebrating Masses for the intentions already received. Any more Mass intentions could be posted through the presbytery letterbox.

I will regularly update the parish websites with more information.

Best wishes and prayers,

Fr. Martin