

THE PARISHES OF ST ETHELBERT LEOMINSTER and ST JOSEPH BROMYARD

Websites: www.st-ethelberts.org.uk and www.catholicchurchbromyard.org.uk

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Parish Information: 20th March 2020

Following official advice regarding the coronavirus pandemic, the Bishops of England and Wales have stated that all public celebrations of Mass should cease until further notice. This includes Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The obligation for the faithful to attend Mass on these days is removed until further notice owing to the extraordinary circumstances.

Priests are permitted to celebrate Mass in private, and some churches, which have the necessary equipment, will be live streaming the Mass on the internet. The Archdiocese is currently compiling a list of those churches.

The funeral for Norman Burrill will now be a private service at the crematorium and, God willing, there will be a memorial service at some time in the near future.

Churches

St Ethelbert's will be open for private prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of this week from 9.00am to 5.00pm. Anyone entering the Church is asked to follow the current guidelines regarding hygiene and social distancing. At present it is not possible for St Joseph's to be open.

Spiritual Communion

Even though we will not be able to receive communion sacramentally at this time, we are all untied in some way by the Holy Spirit. The traditional way of 'spiritual communion' is an important one to remember and reaffirm. A deep spiritual communion is possible even when we do not share together the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Further information and ideas for prayer can be found on the Bishops Conference website www.cbcew.org and the Archdiocesan website www.rcadc.org

In addition:

Baptisms have been deferred until such time as public health advice that congregations may gather is received.

Confessions may be heard on request with distancing requirements observed.

First Confession and Communion programmes and celebrations have been postponed until further notice.

Funerals can only take place at the graveside or crematorium subject to the authorities' guidelines. Arrangements may be made for a Memorial Mass at a later date.

The Bishops' guidelines will be reviewed on 25 March.