



Halston Street Parish, Dublin 7.

St Michan's Catholic Church.

'At the Heart of the Market's Area'

02 May 2020

Dear Parishioner

I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to take some time to write to you to express my solidarity at this time. We face into a time of further restrictions and this continues to be a challenge for so many of us. I know how difficult it is for you not to be able to visit the church to attend Mass, light a candle or offer a prayer. Please be assured that you and your intentions are remembered each day when we celebrate Mass in the Church.

For those of you who have access to the internet, you can join the Mass from the Parish Church at 9.30am Monday to Saturday and at 12 Noon on Sunday via our new webcam. The webcam is accessed through the parish website – www.halstonstreetparish.ie. Also, if you wish to have names mentioned at Mass or anniversaries remembered, please contact me by phone or email and I'd be happy to include them.

Sadly, a number of our Parishioners have died since the beginning of the lockdown. This is a particularly difficult time for families who have experienced a bereavement. The way in which neighbours and friends gather around those who have lost loved one has always struck me as a powerful quality of our Parish. We will have an individual Mass of Remembrance for each of our Parishioners who have died during the course of the restrictions once it is safe to do so.

This week I wrote to the pupils, parents and teachers of our Primary Schools regarding First Holy Communion and Confirmation. I know how much effort they have put into preparing for these important events and to have them cancelled is very difficult for everyone. Please keep them in your prayers at this time. We look forward to being able to celebrate First Holy Communion and Confirmation as soon as it is possible.

Finally, each day amazing work is happening on the ground to provide care and support to the older members of our community and those who are most vulnerable. The local residents' associations are going above and beyond to care for those who need help at this time. I am greatly moved by the dedication of those involved and the joy with which they reach out to others. It really is inspirational, and I feel privileged to be part of such an incredible community.

Please feel free to keep in contact with me by phone or email. We can't visit at this time however we can connect in other ways. If there is any way I can help you at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and yours, safe and well.

Yours in Christ and St Francis

Fr Martin Bennett OFM Cap., PP.

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