

Message from Fr William on Third Sunday of Easter 26th April 2020

Dear People of St Mary's and online visitors to our parish

I hope all are happy and well. I hope all are enjoying the Easter Season, and maybe finding new ways to celebrate. Apparently alcohol sales have gone up by 30% since lockdown. It's Easter! Time to celebrate. I wish I could join you for a pint.

This is our fifth Sunday of lockdown; our sixth when we haven't been able to come together physically for Sunday Mass. We had recorded masses for the first three of these but that's not really the same thing. We're not really celebrating mass together when it's a recording. But now we can celebrate mass with livestream masses. And I'm really grateful to one or two friends who have lent us the equipment both for the recorded masses and the livestream masses.

How I need your help. We may not have this borrowed equipment much longer. Its owner is a professional camera operator and it's likely to be going back into full time employment any day now. If we want to continue either recorded or livestream masses we need to get set up with our own equipment. We would then be able to continue with Mass online from St Mary's. This would cost around £4,000. We also hope to continue with livestream masses even after lockdown so that any housebound parishioners or those away on business or holiday could continue to join us for Mass each Sunday if they wanted to.

We've had some very generous donations in recent times, eg for the projectors, and more recently one parishioner donated £6,000 for the blinds.

If anybody would like to make a donation, either small or large, to help us get set up with our own camera and livestreaming kit I would love to hear from you soon.

Meantime stay well, keep safe, and have a good week. Happy Easter! And wishing you lots of happy celebrating.



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