

Message from Fr William on Sixth Sunday of Easter 17th May 2020

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

The Bishops of England and Wales are in direct talks with the Government to ensure that our churches are re-opened at the earliest possible time, as soon as it's safe to do so. It is likely there will be a period first of being open for private visits, before it is considered safe to resume public services in church, just like we had a for week going into lockdown in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week in Lent. We can be thankful to our bishops for keeping our churches to the attention of the Government.

Meantime we can be sure that we are doing our bit as the Catholic Church in the fight against coronavirus by keeping our churches closed until it is safe to do so. And I will do my best to continue livestreaming our mass to the parish so that we can continue to come together to celebrate Mass each Sunday. We can continue to exercise our shared priesthood, the priesthood that was conferred on all of us in our baptism, by offering together the sacrifice of the Mass. And remember: though we can't at this time receive Holy Communion, which is the normal way to receive the grace of the Eucharist, God who can do all things and is not limited to the normal channels of grace can grant us the grace of this sacrament anyway. Let's ask him for it.

I've put on the bulletin this week information about the CAFOD emergency appeal, the reopening of the Knaresborough foodbank and the call for volunteers, and some information about where you can find help and advice on mental health or increased domestic violence during lockdown.

Livestream equipment for St Mary's? Nearly there. I hope to have some news for you on this next Sunday.

Keep well, keep safe, happy continued easter, and have a good week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sixth Sunday of Easter 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020