

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear People of St Mary's

Thank you for helping to reduce our risk of coronavirus transmission to almost zero. It's the least we can do as a parish for our society at this time. As mentioned last Sunday, the more we reduce our covid footprint as a parish, the more we help to keep other parts of the economy open, and save businesses and save livelihoods.

The government's new 3-tiered system of local Covid-19 Alert Levels provides what has been called a 'baseline' for compliance, meaning the minimum measures we're obliged to undertake to reduce the risk of viral transmission. It's our civic duty to continue to adhere to these regulations. It's also our Christian duty, helping to protect each other, helping to protect the NHS, helping to keep open local business and livelihoods, helping to keep our schools open. We are fortunate to live in an area that is currently on the lowest Covid-19 Alert Level. Long may that last!

As a parish we are continuing to go beyond the 'baseline' of adherence, going the extra mile to help pull the R value back down below 1. We're well placed to do this with the adaptations we have made as a parish since March – zoom conferencing for meetings, online and other cash free collections and donations to continue supporting the parish financially, and livestream celebrations of mass. I'll be discussing with the PPC on Monday whether as a parish we continue to go beyond the 'baseline'. For more information on covid-19 and the use our churches, check out the FAQ I've just put on the website.

Keep well, keep safe, keep each other safe, and thank you for all the sacrifices you've made throughout the pandemic.

God bless you and your homes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020