

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Third Week of Ordinary Time

Dear People of St Mary's,

Alma Corrie, known to many in the parish, died unexpectedly at 2am last Sunday 17th January. I thought you would like to know. Alma Corrie is the mother of Father George. He told me during the week that she loved coming to Knaresborough. I have assured Father George of our prayers for his mother, his father, and for the family.

Thank you those who got back to me with contact information for volunteers wanting to offer specific services at vaccination hubs/centres (see my message of last Sunday still on the website). This is responding to the Government's Coronavirus Places of Worship Taskforce, and their call for volunteers from faith communities to offer particular services at these hubs/centres, such as stewarding, and the skills of former healthcare workers, and many other roles. Knaresborough Connectors is the local agency coordinating volunteers. You can contact their Coronavirus Support Group on 07583 882340 or info@knaresboroughconnectors.org.uk and offer your services.

As mentioned last Sunday, we are also encouraged, as faith communities, to take up the offer of vaccines whenever it is offered. Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict have now both received their first covid inoculation. I will be taking up the invitation for a vaccine just as soon as it comes my way. For those who would like to look more into the ethical considerations around vaccines I'm leaving on the homepage the link to 'Ethical considerations around a potential vaccine'

As explained in previous weeks, I've put a pause on in-church celebrations of mass at this time. Although I do keep this under review week by week, the current levels of coronavirus in the population, and the current rates of change, make it likely that this voluntary closure of the church will continue for some weeks to come. Celebration of mass by livestream for all three Sunday masses continues. I miss seeing you. But I also have a strong awareness of you celebrating with me at all points throughout the mass.

Confirmation classes recommenced last Friday at 7pm. Hence the switch of the Friday mass from 7pm to 9am for the next few weeks.

I hope you liked the aerial photo of St Mary's in the snow, taken by our friend Chris Rawson this January!



Third Sunday Ordinary Time 24th January 2021