

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Third Sunday of Lent 2021

Dear People of St Mary's

There was a suggestion in the October 2020 meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council that those with internet and access to the website could pair up with parishioners that don't, and could provide them with a copy of the bulletin. This is very much in keeping with the spirit of mutual support parishioners have been giving to each other during the pandemic. Our SVP volunteers have been doing this since the beginning of the pandemic when we first sat down to go over who in the parish might need hard copies of bulletin etc, or any additional support. But if you're aware of anybody else we may have overlooked, do consider pairing up with them to provide them with a copy of the bulletin, and maybe this weekly message as well, and you could even let me know you've got them covered.

There's a lot of extra opportunities detailed on the bulletin just now, especially during Lent. I'm aware that many of these opportunities require an internet connection to take them up. This new prevalence of online talks, services, retreats etc is almost certainly going to be a feature of post pandemic parish life. So if you know of anyone not yet set up with internet that you think you might be able to encourage and help to get set up, that could be something people might like to do. Practical help may have to wait now till covid restrictions are eased and people are double vaccinated and immunised.

Our school returns to full reopening tomorrow Monday 8th March along with schools up and down the country. This is good news for the children of our own primary school and for all our schools. I summarised last Sunday the extraordinary work that our own school staff have been putting in to support children and families during the latest lockdown. Now let us keep them very much in our thoughts and in our prayers as they face into the new challenges and the managed risks that are inevitably involved in a full reopening of the school. And as we did in the run up to September, let us do what we can to maximise the probability that this full reopening of our schools will be sustained. We can continue to do our bit by our adherence to the current covid restrictions, and any additional and voluntary measures we might want to undertake as we continue to work together to control the spread of the virus.

Wishing you all a Happy Sunday and a holy Lent



Third Sunday of Lent 7th March 2021