

The Parish of St Matthew Little Lever

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17th March 2020
The Feast of St Patrick

Dear Friends,

The Prayer of the Church over the next few weeks

After much prayer and consideration our archbishops and bishops have given us new instructions concerning the safety of all with regard to public worship.

Our usual pattern of Sunday Masses 8.00 am and 10.00 am have had to be cancelled with immediate effect. However, as always **our doors will be open** and church will be open **on Sundays between 10.00 am and 11.00 am** for private prayer with the Blessed Sacrament exposed as a focus for our prayer. Do feel free to spend as much or as little time as you want in church. You may of course simply wish to remain at home and pray there.

Our weekday pattern of worship has also had to be suspended with immediate effect. There will be no public Masses on Monday to Saturday.

I want you to be encouraged however knowing that the clergy will be saying Morning and Evening Prayer daily and that Mass will be offered daily (albeit privately) for the needs of the world, the church and our community. If you have particular people or concerns you want us to pray for, please email, telephone or call at the vicarage. The clergy very much want to keep in touch with you all at this time even if it is by modern channels of communication. Notices will be published on the Church doors with updates as happened during our building works last year.

We will, as ever, be available for Funeral Rites, Weddings and Baptisms.

These are extremely difficult days for us all. I'm sure that over the next weeks and months many of us will need to support one another in sad and tragic circumstances.

Be assured of our prayers, concern and support at all time and **remember that we are always available.**

With every blessing,

Fr John

Fr John Wiseman
Churchwardens, Fr I Anthony, Fr S Haworth

