

# The Churches of St John & St Patrick

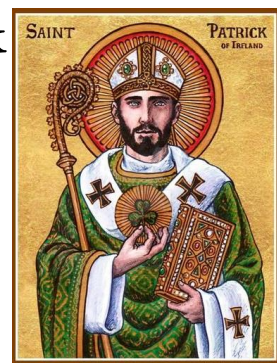
*servicing the Parish of St William*

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Facebook pages: 'St Patrick's Catholic Church Wigan'  
'St John's RC Church, Standishgate, Wigan'



Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Following the message from the Prime Minister yesterday evening (Monday, 23rd) the Bishops of England and Wales have now said that churches must be closed entirely. It means that St Patrick's and St John's will not be open for private prayer either on weekdays or Sundays. Our thanks to those parishioners who had volunteered to be 'guardians' of our churches during the times of prayer we had planned.

St Paul told the first Christians of Rome that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, 'no angel, no prince... no power...' And certainly not a locked church door! In your prayer at home, close your eyes and in the silence place yourself mentally before the Tabernacle. Speak to Jesus. Adore Him. And pray for your family, your friends, our parish and our country. Of course He wants to come to you too, in your homes. Wouldn't it be a great blessing if at this time families started praying together at home? Remember, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I, in the midst of them.'

It's true that we are all in our Lord's hands but He wants us to co-operate with Him to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We shouldn't take unnecessary risks with our health, nor put other people in danger. We ought to follow the Government's guidance about staying indoors as much as possible. And if you are feeling a little bit lonely, why not try giving someone a phone call? They'll probably be feeling much the same.

The parish newsletter this weekend will be pinned to the church door for you to read during the week. If you're reading this, you've already discovered Facebook. Our parish Facebook pages will be a good way of keeping in touch. We still hope to live-stream Mass from St Patrick's at 12.00 noon on Sunday, so do please pray for the success of that venture. In the meantime, Let's pray for one another.

God bless you,

Father O'Shea