



The Churches of St John & St Patrick

servicing the Parish of St William

13 Powell Street, Lancashire, Wigan,
England, WN1 1XD.

Phone: 01942 247561

Email: stwilliam@rcaolp.co.uk Web: www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

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



Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

What amazing things mobile phones are nowadays. You can text, you can request repeat prescriptions, you can do your banking, you can check the racing results. You can even use them as telephones! This is something many of us have been rediscovering in the past week or so. A text to a relative or friend is much appreciated. But a phone call is so much better. It could just help to preserve someone's sanity in these strange times. And it would be a real act of Christian charity.

Speaking to parishioners on the phone this week, or at a safe distance in the street, it's been good to hear that many of you are managing to keep your spirits up. But I know some of you are finding it tough. Let's help one another where we can and remember that none of us is alone. Our Lord is with you, and your brothers and sisters across the parish are praying for you.

At the moment our normal routine of bringing Holy Communion to the sick has been suspended and I'm not able to make normal pastoral visits. But it's important that you know that if you or a relative should be seriously ill in hospital, whatever the illness, the Priest Chaplain will come to you. Each of the local priests is on the hospital chaplaincy rota, so just ask the ward staff. If you should be seriously ill at home, please do contact me here. I'll come as quickly as I can.

This year is the 75th anniversary of VE DAY. Some of you are old enough to remember joyful celebrations at the end of the war. It may help to keep us going in the present situation to look forward to the end of the current restrictions. Because they will end. It's now looking as though the Barn Dance we'd planned for June may not happen. If it doesn't, perhaps we can do it later, when the 'All Clear' sounds. So, if you're in the mood for a song, altogether now: 'We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when...!'

In the meantime, you'll be able to watch Mass again this Sunday at 12.00noon on St Patrick's Facebook Page and later on our Youtube Channel or website. See you then.

God bless you,

Father O'Shea