

Message from Fr. Paul.

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well, as thankfully I am.

People often say to me at this time of year "Father, this is your busy time of year", and usually they are right! But this year has been very different, for myself and for all of us. Holy Week this year has been so different to any other, and at times difficult too. It still seems so strange to celebrate Mass alone, and in a locked church. But as we know, needs must. For obvious reasons the Triduum was particularly difficult, but despite all of this I am very much aware that none of us are ever alone, as God is always at our side. As I stand at the altar each day, you are all very much in my prayer, and will continue to be so. Let us go on praying for each other, and also for our world, for all suffering from Corona Virus, for their loved ones, for those who care for the sick, for our wonderful NHS, for those who have died and for their families and friends. We have certainly so much that we need to bring to God in our prayer.

Next Thursday at Mass we hear my favourite Resurrection story (Luke 24: 35 – 48), the two Apostles meeting our Lord on the Road to Emmaus, and recognising him in the breaking of bread. We continue to see the Lord as one who works among us unseen until he pronounces our names, as one who walks among us unknown until he breaks bread for us. That day will certainly come when again we can gather together around the Lord's table, and recognise him in the breaking of bread.

Until then, keep safe and well, and let us continue to do what is being asked of us at this time.

May the risen Lord fill you and your families with his peace and his love.

God bless.

Fr. Paul

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Fr Joe Duggan, the last Jesuit to serve as Parish priest here at St Michael & St John's sends his best wishes for a happy and holy Easter to all parishioners, and as always will remember us in his Mass on Easter Sunday.

A copy of his letter will be put up in the porch at a later date.