

7 April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We now approach the Easter Triduum, which lies at the very heart of our faith. These are strange times. Just as we should all be gathering together and supporting everyone else in celebrating these mysteries, we are having to stay at home, some on our own, some with our families. I hope you are getting into worshipping online. It is important that you are not just watching it, but participating in it. All the family gathering round, sitting, standing and kneeling as you would in church and making your responses. There is a strange sense of solidarity as we all do it together each in the isolation of our homes and also perhaps a stronger sense of our obedience to our Bishop.

There are many websites on which you might participate, but I suggest that it might be most appropriate to be “with” our Archbishop “in” the Cathedral. You get onto the live streaming through the Cathedral website <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

The times at the Cathedral are as follows:

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper	7 pm
Good Friday Liturgy	3 pm
The Holy Saturday Easter Ceremonies	8 pm

Confessions before Easter I have written about this in the Holy Week Newsletter on our website, so I refer you back to it. In the absence of the sacrament, it is important to make a perfect act of contrition.

Let me finish with a Holy Week reflection. At the last supper Peter says that he will lay down his life for Jesus. Jesus responds “Lay down your life for me? I tell you solemnly, before the cock crows you will disown me three times.” Peter’s words went ahead of himself. He desired to follow Jesus at one level and thought he could save Jesus from some peril. However he wasn’t listening. Jesus had said to him “Where I am going you cannot follow me now; you will follow me later.” We, who want to follow Jesus, let our devotions go ahead of ourselves, asserting things we are not ready or capable of doing. However that is the nature of religious devotion and we need to do it. We do it as we renew our baptismal promises each Easter, but that doesn’t mean we still don’t have a lot to learn and a long way to go. Our words go ahead us and we need to allow them to do so, but we also need to learn to listen more carefully to what Jesus is saying to us and so learn to make the right sacrifices in our lives at the right time.

Wishing you a fruitful Triduum and a very Happy Easter.

Fr Stephen Pimlott