



CARLISLE CATHEDRAL

March 24th 2020

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the Cathedral Chapter to everyone associated with the Cathedral at what is an extraordinary time for all of us. The situation we are all facing because of the Coronavirus outbreak is unprecedented and I want to assure you that **the Cathedral is praying for you** and for everyone in the city and the county. This seems especially important when many people are anxious and distressed. This is bound to be the case in such uncertain times, especially if someone we know has been tested positive, or is in hospital, or is thought to be at risk.

Last week the Archbishops called on us to suspend public worship. But it is important that you know that **prayer is still being offered in the Cathedral**. The Cathedral clergy are maintaining our pattern of prayer every morning and evening - and the Cathedral bell is being rung at those times to let people know that they are in our minds and on our hearts. At a time of many questions, we know one thing for sure: that God's love is unfailing. Nothing can separate us from it.

We were able to **"live stream" the celebration of Eucharist** from the Cathedral on Sunday morning on Facebook, at which Canon Michael presided. I am glad to hear that quite a number of people were able to watch it and it has been good to read appreciative feedback. The service is still available to watch on Facebook. Simply go on to the Cathedral website www.carlislecathedral.org.uk and follow the Facebook link. We aim to continue to live stream worship at 10.30 on Sundays.

The Prime Minister's broadcast on Tuesday means that we now have to close the Cathedral and the precinct in order to do all we can to limit the effect of the virus. Thanks to the internet there are still ways in which people can join us in prayer. You are encouraged to **email prayer requests to us**. They will then be included in our prayers each day. The email address to use is simply: prayers@carlislecathedral.org.uk or simply post your prayer to share with others on the Cathedral website prayer wall: <https://carlislecathedral.org.uk/prayer-wall/>

If you are one of our **volunteers**, you will know that all volunteer activity was suspended last week. The Chapter was clear at that early stage that it must follow the Government's advice and ensure that no one was put at unnecessary risk. We have also moved to a **"working from home"** basis for Cathedral staff as far as is possible and the Cathedral Office is now closed. We will pick up voicemail messages left on 01228 548151 but the best way to be in touch will be by email on office@carlislecathedral.org.uk

Cubby Construction Limited has been working very hard to complete the capital works on the **Fratry** building and the landscaping around it over the last few days. The work is very nearly finished.

Let me finish by reassuring you of our prayers for all of you each day. You may find the words of this prayer helpful as we pray together for those who are dearest to us, for any who we know are in special need and for the whole life of the community to which we belong. Canon Michael has also kindly enclosed some resources for our prayers each day.

A prayer

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Yours very sincerely,

Mark Boyling,
on behalf of the Cathedral Chapter

KEEPING IN TOUCH. The best way for us to keep in touch widely over the next period will be by email. **It would be a great help if those who would welcome further contact from us made sure we have your email address by sending it to:** office@carlislecathedral.org.uk

Thank you.