

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church

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&

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AS YOU WILL ALL KNOW we were already observing the Bishops' Conference Stage 2 guidelines and recommendations on coronavirus but events are escalating rapidly. Please see the letter from the Bishop's Conference on the Homepage of this website if you have not already looked at it.

During this national emergency, it is the Church's task to do what she always does: to call on the prayers of Our Lady and our Patron Saints and to pray earnestly and trustingly to God our Father. We do not know why God in His providence has allowed this pandemic to occur. What we do know is that He has given us victory through the death and resurrection of His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ and poured into human history the power of the Holy Spirit to guide all things in the right direction. This is why we know, in the words of St. Paul, that nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. ... These are the trials by which we triumph by the power of Him who loved us. Indeed, we can be certain that neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8: 35-36, 38-39).

The Church is our loving Mother. Her supernatural life, her mission to all, her service of the needy is our purpose. We must help everyone find salvation in Jesus Christ. We must offer prayer and entreaty, administer the Sacraments and invoke the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continue to teach and proclaim the saving Word of God, to resist panic and to overcome the snares of the Evil One. We must show love to all, especially to the sick, to the homeless, the poor and the isolated. We must tackle coronavirus with our spiritual resources, as well as with our practical, medical and human resources. So let us pray and work for an end to this time of trial, for a speedy resolution, for the minimisation of damage, for the sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for those in self-isolation, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the poor and the homeless, for the well-being and financial security of everyone, for the pastoral care of the Church community, for the medical staff and others who care for the sick, and for the eternal repose of those who have died.

Lord Jesus Christ, true physician and heavenly medicine,

be merciful to us and bring us aid

Heal all our sickness, Lord

Heal every malady that afflicts Thy people

Banish our infirmities of soul and body.

Rid us of all disease and pestilence.

And in Thy pity, deal also with the causes of our evil plight,

so that, in curing our perverseness

Thou mayest also remedy our bodily ills. Amen.