



Dear Parents,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Therefore we have had to suspend the lessons in Church and postpone the sacraments of Reconciliation (Sat 28th March and Holy Communion (3rd May). At the moment we do not know when these sacraments will take place. But rest assured that THEY WILL take place.

When, will be the question?

I have given all the Communion Candidates a format for their first confession that they need to be familiar with. I have also given them examination of conscience (in 3 ways).

Over the next few weeks etc. of “social distancing” or “isolation” they need to revise the chapters covered so far, learn the prayers and the questions on the sheet in their books and say an extra prayer for an end to this pandemic.

Like everyone else they will not be able to go to masses. The pope has given a dispensation to Catholics during this time. They could watch or listen to mass on the TV/internet or radio (e.g. <https://www.rte.ie/radio1/sunday-worship/> or <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>). Others are available.

Below are some prayers if they help say them. But remember to stay safe and healthy.

Yours Sincerely

John Roche

<p>Prayers about the outbreak</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>For those who are ill</p> <p>Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
<p>God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	<p>For hospital staff</p> <p>Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.

We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs

For as long as it takes wherever you call us.



Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,

You always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

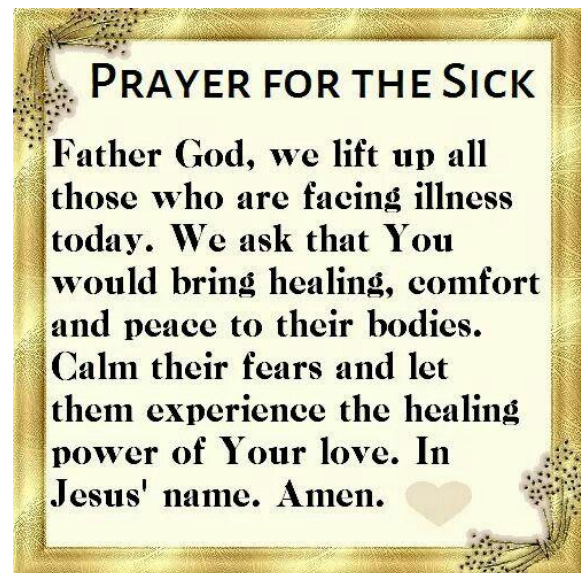
Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow.

The same everlasting father who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and every day.

Either he will shield you from suffering,

or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.



CATCH IT.

BIN IT.

KILL IT.