



SHREWSBURY
CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Never in the Church's history has she seen necessary to suspend the public worship of Almighty God or to close her churches and so - despite reports to the contrary - in these unprecedented circumstances, she has neither suspended her acts of worship nor closed her churches. Such a measure could never be contemplated by the Church, first because God is due adoration and worship proper to Him, and second that the Church, containing as it does the Blessed Sacrament, is always a place of prayer, of sanctuary, and of the possibility of reconciliation and absolution.

Whilst the public authorities have counselled the Church not to encourage public gatherings such as the celebration of Holy Mass, the Holy Mass will continue to be offered, and you may participate albeit at a physical distance, but no separation in prayer. Public Masses cannot take presently place, but using the online live-streaming that the Cathedral can offer, a whole daily programme of prayer and devotions is made available, and whilst the Cathedral may not be open for such acts of worship, in the times between, certainly the Church will be open allowing, with prudential distance from one another, private prayer before the Tabernacle, and a priest available on request in the confessional, again observing, if waiting in line, the appropriate distance. Live streaming is available at: shrewsburycathedral.org where you will also find the schedule of services.

As we cannot unite together in the body of the Church, I promise you my daily prayers and a remembrance in the offering of the Mass. I also assure you that should any of you fall sick or need a priest in an emergency you may call: **07923 326820** and a priest should be with you. Should you be admitted to hospital, please simply ask that the nurse or staff member ask the switchboard to page the on-call Catholic priest. Do not hesitate to call upon us for the sacraments. Further, please be aware and reminded that in extremis, any may baptise using the formula, 'I baptise you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' and using what water is available. Also, please know that if are with someone who is gravely ill, invite them to make a good act of contrition such as, 'O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.' I have called upon the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Cathedral clergy to offer telephone support to the self-isolating and the sick. If you are aware of anyone that you think we may have missed - or are yourself self-isolating - please let us know if we can be of support.

Please pray that our sick and housebound and those self-isolating at this time may be protected and brought back to full health through the intercession of our Lady, Help of Christians and her spouse, St Joseph, to whom the month of March is dedicated.

Meanwhile, today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday* and also kept as Mothers day! Our prayers and good wishes to all mothers and let's offer a pray for them, living or departed.

Father Edmund