

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Principally this is addressed to the community of worshippers at Our Lady of Dolours Parish on the Fulham Road, but to any others that see this Greetings in the Risen Lord.

Firstly, May I wish you all a Happy Easter and I hope you are well, keeping safe and coping with all the restrictions. It is indeed strange not to see you all turning up in the church but we pray for you often.

There are just five of us in the Priory. Fr Pat and myself, along with Fr Rory. We have a visiting Servite, Fr Gerardo, a Mexican by birth but now living in Monte Senario, just outside Florence. He was meant to stay from mid-February to mid-March, but became 'locked-down' with us. The fifth person is John who is staying with us a short while. Fr Allan was due to go on holiday on Easter Sunday evening, and was quite fearful that he wouldn't get away, but on the Tuesday of Holy Week he received a phone call to see that a plane was coming from the Philippines and if he was ready he could fly that evening, so he did and is now home with his folds.

During the coming week the funeral of Martha Ly will be celebrated. She is the wife of Deacon Paul. She has lived the past few months in St Vincent's care home at Hammersmith. We pray she will see the Lord face to face and also condolences to Paul and all the family. There will be a funeral Mass celebrated in the church when this emergency has passed.

We have had to furlough Monica but we keep in touch by phone, she is keeping well. That means that we answer the door and the phone as best we can.

Last week I had an interview by Zoom. It worked very well considering we were scattered across the world

Rhett in the Philippines, Fero in Innsbruck, Stefano in Rome, myself in London and then Yvon in Montreal and Miguel in Buenos Aires.

This Sunday is Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday. Please keep Fr Fulgensio in your prayers who hoped to come and stay with us here in London.

Then on Monday of this week we will celebrate the feast of St Peregrine. It was strange not to have the little community of people to pray for health and well being as we do on the last Wednesday of each month. So we will pray again this Monday for all who are sick. We will of course pray especially for all those suffering from Covid 19 and a prayer of protection for all the wonderful doctors and nurses and frontline staff. We stand at the front of the Church each Thursday at 8 o'clock and join in the applause. There is always a good group outside the hospital and this week they hung up five big heart shaped wreaths, all made from flowers outside the entrance.

Except for one week we have been blessed by having our groceries delivered to the door so we are well nourished.

We are now in the month of May and the Pope has asked very especially for prayers, and suggested that we pray the rosary and finish with one of the prayers that I will attach to this email.

So remember we pray for you each day. Some of you I know follow the Mass online.

If you have a TV box its possible to tune into Mass through EWTN which is found among the Religious stations.

The Westminster website will give you other options search RCDOW

Or again look for Marley Grange Parish. That is the Servite Parish in Dublin and look at their website where the WEBCAM is clearly marked.

So keep well, keep safe, keep smiling

Peace and prayers

Fr Chris and the Servite community