

Dear Community

Please see the attached letter from our Lenker/co-ordinator Tom Ravetz, which has been written on behalf of our Priest community in Great Britain. As you will understand from the letter, we will have to cancel all programmed congregational events and public services for the foreseeable future, with immediate effect (19th March 2020). This is naturally a shock to all of us and has a lot of challenging consequences.

Sacramental substance - The first thing will be to find creative ways to maintain our sacramental substance. The services will still be held at the regular times by the priests with two servers, but with no congregation. The priests will endeavour to include the congregation inwardly at the altar and at the same time we appeal to those of you that wish to, to seek ways to inwardly carry the service(s) from your own places. This could take various forms according to one's own creative impulses. The following may serve as a guideline. Do make it as simple as you need. Keep it manageable. This would be especially helpful for the Sunday services where we could imagine that many others will be doing the same around the country and also in many other countries where it is no longer to hold public services.

- Light a candle at the time of the service with a Christ picture on the table.
- Call to mind the festival period and colours.
- Imagine everyone in the congregation and the candles being light at the altar.
- Read the Gospel reading for the week.
- Read the contemplation/verse/sermon – see below
- Read the Creed or meditate part of it.
- Imagine the best soul forces of the community being fetched by the angel of the congregation and being poured into the cup.
- Imagine the prayers of the community rising with the incense at the altar.
- Imagine the Priest kneeling at the altar with the raised cup accompanied by the Christ.
- Imagine the body and blood of the Christ.
- Speak the Our Father.
- Imagine the communion.
- Extinguish the candle.

Saturday support – Every Saturday the priests will endeavour to send out a sermon/contemplation or verse to be used for the coming week and in addition a reminder of the festival time and Gospel reading. This will be especially important during Holy Week and Easter where we will do our best to send something daily. The gospel reading and words of the creed will also be emailed to everybody.

Weekly news – we are still sending out the programme knowing full well that most or even all of it will no longer outwardly be able to take place. We want to encourage an on-going

consciousness for all the programme and festival items nonetheless. We feel it will prove important in upholding our community substance. In some cases we may be able to send out related programme material and encourage your inner support for certain items. For instance the monthly Gathering for the Dead could be something that some may wish to continue in their own private spaces on behalf of the community and we hope to send out the list of names for each month of those to be remembered. To this end Selina, Aaron and Paul will send out a weekly Community news via email on Wednesdays. (The usual Monday up-date will fall away.) There we will send out news and programme elements as they come up. Please feel free to email one of us with your own news, announcements, needs, poetry, thoughts, verses, etc if you wish it to be included in the weekly news. Please think of those without email and pass on news where possible.

Social Support – Given the current health concerns it is understandable that some may feel the need to stay at home and limit their usual social and community engagements. This may even soon be something that is officially expected for over 70-year olds. This could prove to be very difficult, lonely and stressful in some instances and could give rise to certain needs that require support from others (shopping, someone to talk to, staying in touch, maintaining connections, etc). With this in mind the priests would like to offer themselves as support facilitators for any such needs that may arise. If you have such a need or know someone else who has, then please do not hesitate to email or phone one of the priests and we will do all we can to facilitate the support you need including the possibility of a house visit, using our email list, etc, etc. It would be wonderful if people took the initiative to meet up and do visits and phone calls to maintain the connections with each other. We hope in this way that together we can counteract the present darkness with an abundance of human light, and make even more real our Christian Community as a true community of social trust, confidence and warmth.

Wishing you all much strength and love and warmth,

Aaron and Selina