



**St Joseph's Catholic Church**

Arkell Avenue, Carterton, OXON OX18 3BS

Dear Friends and parishioners of St Joseph's Parish,

The time may be approaching when at least visits to the church and the lighting of candles may again be possible. It will be two months on Sunday since the guidance was published that churches should be locked, which I found painful and regrettable, as I am sure you all did. During this time, I have continued to offer Mass daily either at Burford or at Carterton and twice on Sundays for all the people. However, on Monday 11 May, in the vain attempt to rescue a swift stranded in St Joseph's Church, I fell from a height and injured my left arm, dislocating my shoulder and badly fracturing my left hand. I shall be in a plaster cast for ten weeks, and therefore shall be unable to drive. However, I began to offer Mass again yesterday for the Feast of the Ascension and will try to continue daily, relying on kind parishioners to bring me to Burford to offer Mass occasionally.

Please remember in your prayers the following who have recently died. Olive Harcourt, Chris Murphy, Joan Clements, Monica Owen, Marie Drew, John Robinson. Many have requested memorial Masses in church when this is possible.

Please continue to contact me by telephone 01993-842463 or email [andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com). Fr Pat Broun has kindly agreed to help with visits - respecting the present guidance - and with necessary funeral arrangements.

This period of lockdown has been an ordeal for everyone in different ways. Some have suffered a great deal, and isolation has added to their suffering. We remember each other in our prayers and do what we can materially to alleviate need, and cheer and encourage those who are on their own.

God bless you all for the networks of help that have been established and have contributed so well to achieving this end.

God bless you all,

Father Andrew Foster

22/05/2020