



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Arkell Avenue, Carterton, OXON OX18 3BS

Dear Parishioners,

I am available to speak to parishioners on the telephone and by email. I can hear confessions by arrangement (at church or at home if the 2-metre rule is adhered to). I will visit (BRIEFLY) in case of need and administer the Sacrament of the Sick ('remotely' by cotton bud stick) and give Communion, ESPECIALLY if someone is about to be admitted to hospital (the reason is that access to patients in hospital is extremely difficult/impossible now for priests).

The following details are from a letter today from the Archbishop to clergy and will be of interest to the people:

FUNERALS: Not possible in churches at present, only at crematoria or at the graveside. 'It is permissible to celebrate a Funeral Mass with the Ashes of the deceased after the epidemic is over.' This option will certainly be followed in the case of cremations where possible

SACRAMENTAL ABSOLUTION: 'Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (of God) and accompanied by the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones.'

EASTER DUTY (of making confession and receiving Holy Communion): 'Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.'

There will be more in due course concerning Holy Week and Easter.

Best wishes,

Father Andrew Foster

28/03/2020