

## Closure of our churches

Dear All,

In case you haven't heard yet, this is just a note to say that after the Prime Minister's message last night, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have taken the decision to close all our churches until the crisis passes.

In a letter from Cardinal Nichols one of the reasons he gives is that everyone in the country is being urged not to travel, and if we leave the churches open people will travel to spend time there. So in solidarity with the rest of the country and for the common good we are playing our part.



I have to say though that it is very sad to be deprived of the privilege, but, as the Cardinal also pointed out, through the streaming of the Mass on the Internet, we are being kept in contact and actually attracting larger congregations. A lady in the shop this morning, who doesn't attend our church, told me she had tuned into our Mass last Sunday. So you never know. God's no mug!

In the meantime, this is just to let you know that I am continuing to say Mass every day, and that when I walk through that door I take each and every one of you in my heart before the Lord, and that's how it will be, please God, until the day when we can all meet together again, to celebrate the wonderful gift of our faith in a joyful Mass of thanksgiving.

Let's continue to pray for each other.

God Bless

Fr Alf

PS. I will send out a bulletin later this week. If any of your family or neighbours don't receive it by email and would like to, please send me their email address.

PPS. Today is the great Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day when Mary was asked by the angel Gabriel if she would consent to be the mother of our Saviour.

She had her own free will as we all do and could have said "No". Thankfully, as the world, through Gabriel, metaphorically held its breath awaiting her answer, and, after a little hesitation over a very real worry she had, she said "Yes", an answer which opened the door for the salvation of the world.

Her answer, summed up in one Latin word "Fiat" ie "Let it be done" has been adopted by the Church ever since as the perfect reply to whatever God asks of us. And, as we know, Mary's life was no bed of roses.

In this time of crisis, maybe a decade of the Rosary each day asking for her intercession with her Son for a swift end to it would be a good idea.

PPPS. Thank you for all the positive feedback to our recorded Mass. I have been asked to allow time for you to make the responses at the appropriate time, which I will do. From now on we're going to try to have the recording ready to go from 10.00, our usual time of Mass.