



The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

Dear Friends,

One of the challenges which I have set myself for the remainder of our interregnum is to keep in touch with as many people as possible. Even though many of the restrictions we have experienced since March are starting to be relaxed, Church in Wales guidance on pastoral ministry continues to state that it should be exercised from a distance – by phone or online. Visiting should only be undertaken when essential, and even then should normally be on the doorstep.

As you know, my post is not full-time, and my time is therefore limited. It would be helpful if I knew of any “networks” where people are in regular contact with each other. This will enable me to use the time effectively and to be aware of the level of contact which is taking place. Similarly, if you know of anyone whom you feel would value pastoral contact by phone, please let me know. My contact details are at the foot of this letter.

In the mailings this week, you will read the welcome news that worship will recommence at St. Mary’s next Sunday. It is also likely that it will recommence at Holy Trinity in the not too distant future. You will also read of the steps which will be necessary to ensure that we can worship and receive the sacrament in a safe environment. A great deal of work has been carried out and thanks are due to those who have made and will make worship possible.

When the Welsh Government announced that churches were able to re-open for worship, the Church in Wales emphasised that there was no compulsion on individual churches to open – safety was paramount. Similarly, there is no compulsion on you to attend worship. It will be a joyous occasion next Sunday when we will be able to worship together after such a long time, and the last thing I would wish to do is to dissuade people from coming to church! However, it is important that we feel safe and that we are not anxious. If you are not able to attend, the service will be recorded and will be available to view later in the day.

With every good wish

Jeff

**Assistant Priest: Reverend Jeff Pearse**

**St. Mary’s Priory – Christchurch – Holy Trinity – St. Peter’s**

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