

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 29th March; Passion Sunday

What a strange couple of weeks it has been. A fortnight ago all seemed relatively normal, but now the church is closed, many are self isolating and working from home and sadly some are now ill or without a job. Throughout, our community has been ahead of the curve. People phoned to say they were staying away from church as they felt vulnerable, we decided to close the Wednesday service, Julian Group, choir practice, café and all social activities before the central church ordered us to do so. Now all churches are locked down.

I am beginning to wonder what day it is without the routine of church services; I think it is Thursday and the Prime Minister is Boris Johnson, so I'm not yet completely ga-ga. Please remember him and all in authority as they daily must make difficult decisions. Pray for our health and emergency services and for all our local shops who are keeping us supplied with essentials. The corner shops are doing a brilliant job, I feel.

Everyday life has changed for the moment, but this has led to so many of us taking to the telephone and social media to keep in touch, checking people are alright and helping where needed. We are so lucky to have such means of communication and for those living alone, young or old, it is often vitally important in keeping us sane and seeing things in perspective.

One thing never changes. We have a direct line to God and always will have, so please use it. God is never overwhelmed like our call centres, always receiving incoming calls, always there for us when we need help and guidance. The lack of communal worship may seem strange, but we can use it to become even closer to the almighty.

Beyond that the church nationally and locally is finding innovative ways to engage with their congregations and the wider community so do search them out and use the resources that are available.

I know many of you love our church building. I am going over every day to check all is well. It feels strange as I have switched off the heating and am unlikely to meet anybody, but I can say a few prayers and come away.

Keep your physical distance from everybody outside your home, but endeavour to close the mental distance between your family, friends and neighbours and more especially with God.

With my love, Will Green