

# OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER AND ST THOMAS MORE

LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Corpus Christi:** Many of us will have witnessed or taken part in outdoor processions on this great feast celebrating the gift of Jesus Christ, himself present in the Eucharist. Deprived of such celebrations, we can perhaps become more aware of the mystery of how Our Lord shares himself with us in the silence of our adoration, in particular in our private prayer. Yes, Jesus is present for us in the tabernacle in church, but in many other ways as well, especially “in the distressing disguise of the poor”. (St Teresa of Kolkata)

**Volunteering:** A few days ago there was an article in “The Times” (11.06.20, p21) reporting that researchers at Harvard University “have suggested that volunteering should be prescribed by doctors as a ‘way of simultaneously enhancing health and society’”. As we emerge from lockdown, some of us still find we have more time on our hands than we are used to. Below are two opportunities to reap the benefits the scientists identify.

**Refreshment Hub:** During the lockdown period Central London Catholic Churches are providing a Refreshment Hub service for the homeless in Trafalgar Square from 10.30am until 1.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist, then please contact Charles McFarland 020 8767 7132 or cpmm@hotmail.co.uk.

**Re-opening Holy Redeemer:** We are looking for volunteer ushers and cleaners to assist with the re-opening of our beautiful church. At present we still cannot celebrate Mass with the parishioners in the church, but from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June people will be able to come into Holy Redeemer church for individual prayer. To begin with the church will be open daily from 9.45am to 12.15pm, but only the section between the grille and the entrance. Allowing for social distancing, this means there will be only space for four worshippers at any one time. Clearly we would like more of the church to be open, and for longer. However, for that to happen we would need to have some more volunteer cleaners and ushers. There are three qualifications for these roles: to be parishioners, between 18 and 70 years old, and not to be clinically vulnerable. To volunteer or get further information, please contact Charles McFarland 020 8767 7132 or cpmm@hotmail.co.uk. More volunteers = more our church will be open.

**Fr James:** We were looking forward to the return visit by Fr James Buah Nkwantibisa, the priest from Ghana who came to help out last summer. Recently I was talking to him. He is in good health and has many happy memories of his visit here and the friends he made. Unfortunately the restrictions implemented to deal with the Covid 19 pandemic, both in Ghana and in the UK, mean he will not be able to come this year. Fr James and I agreed that we will keep in touch and plan for him to visit again in 2021.

**SOS Prayerline:** 020 7434 9211 Because nothing is impossible to God, people are available to pray for you seven nights a week, 7.00pm to 11.00pm. If you would like to get involved in this apostolate as a volunteer, please contact: evangelisation@stpatriksoho.org.

If you are unable to visit Holy Redeemer during the hours the church is open, please look at the websites of other local churches to see when they are going to open their doors.

Once again I would like to thank you for your messages of support. Though my life has been somewhat that of an urban hermit, I have been very much aware of your prayers and encouragement. Please keep praying for everyone affected by the coronavirus, directly or indirectly.

Canon Paschal Ryan

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