



21st Dec 20

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are keeping safe, especially considering the recent spike in this most dreadful pandemic that we are experiencing.

I regret to inform you that after much deliberation and much prayer, and with meeting with our Churchwardens, we felt that it would be most negligent to carry on with the midnight mass this year, therefore, perhaps making history, Midnight Mass has been postponed until Christmas 2021. However, we will be having Mass on Christmas Day morning at 10am!

As we are constantly hearing, these are unprecedented times, and I believe it would be most inappropriate to encourage to gather a people to come and worship, or even to offer a restricted number. It would have been challenging to offer Midnight Mass without singing the wonderful Carols, but we were prepared to persevere, but, as I am sure you will agree, we are much safer in our homes, than trying to battle coming to church, and we really do not know what is lurking about, and the possibility of picking up another form of Covid is indeed, the last thing we would want to pass on.

This decision did not come lightly, and there was a real battle between what my heart was saying, and what my head was telling me to do! Perhaps I may be wrong in taking such a decision, and being supported by the Church wardens, but I also believe, it is the most sensible and practical outcome, and I need to be decisive,

I know that the Archbishop of Canterbury shared with us that Christmas will carry on, but in a quite different way! However, our Advent journey is about the expectation of God coming into the world through Jesus Christ, and this is guaranteed! We simply need to be ready when he does! So, the point being, that Christmas will happen, irrespective if we participate in the Midnight Mass or not, but I hope it will be a wakeup call for all of us, that we need to be alert that Christ will come at a time when we least expect him, not just at Advent or Christmas!

Be assured of my continual prayers for you and with you, and I very much hope that we will once again be together in the very near future, singing our hearts out and following the way of Christ in our liturgical calendar of the Church' cycle. Until such time, this letter comes with much love and joy to all at this Christmas time.

Happy Christmas, and a much better New Year!

Love and Prayers

Fr David