

Like most of you, each day to escape the confines of the rectory I am taking a rather long walk. And for the last couple of days it has become more and more noticeable how we are working at keeping our distance. We step onto the grass, into driveways and cross the street in order to avoid coming near to each other. There is heaviness in people's faces. It is as if a dark cloud or veil has descended upon us.

This week begins what is known as Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent. It is the time that the statues may be covered. It is a practice that comes from the Gospel of John in which it says that Jesus went covertly, not publically to Jerusalem; he did not show himself until the proper moment. Many aspects of life are veiled, in darkness for us at this moment but in faith we believe that light will come; Jesus will remove the veil, the veil of mourning that covers us. The psalm for this Sunday is Psalm 130- the De Profundis- "Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord". We hear, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." Together we wait for the Lord, together we hope. Hopefully everyone is marking Sunday by having a time of prayer at home; read the readings; offer petitions; recite the Creed and the Our Father and make a spiritual act of communion. There are also many opportunities to watch Mass on TV or on-line.

Father John and I continue to offer Mass each day and make a Holy Hour of Eucharistic adoration each evening. Do you have specific prayer requests? Email us or give us a call.

Please remember that the parish, despite the cancellation of Masses, still needs your financial support. The Diocese of Hamilton has set up a Covid-19 support portal on the Diocese website. (You can go onto the parish website for the link). A cheque can also be mailed to the parish.

This Sunday is Solidarity Sunday, at which we take up the annual collection for Development and Peace. This year the poor of the world will need our help even more than ever. Attached is a letter from Development and Peace on how to contribute on-line.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is also responding as best as they are able to local needs and instructions and the link is also on the parish website.

It has come to my attention that there is a scam going around from my email account. Please disregard any request from me.

In Christ,

Father Ed