

## Dear Parishioners

*It is very good to be able to offer a celebration of mass which is now a little warmer than it was before, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the musicians and the stewards who make this possible. To help the stewards to do their job without being distracted from the celebration of the mass, may I ask you all to make every effort to arrive early, so that they also may take their full part in the Eucharist? Thank you very much for your understanding. At a recent meeting of our parish team it was suggested that the long benches at the back of church might be left for families so that they can sit together. You will see a notice on some of them to this effect.*

*If anyone finds it difficult to come up to the front to receive communion, please let the steward know, and stand up in your place at the beginning of communion so that the minister can see that this is what you wish. If anyone needs communion taking to their home, please get in touch with the office and we will do our best, within the current limitations, to arrange a visit. I understand that some have wondered why I do not distribute communion myself. This is not from choice! but because the monastic community feel it is necessary for me to take this precaution in order to protect the health of the most vulnerable members of our community. I hope you will understand.*

*Another suggestion of the team is that, while we are not permitted to make the conventional sign of peace at mass, we might acknowledge the presence of other members of the congregation at this moment by making a gesture - a bow, or a wave, or just a smile.*

*Finally, may I thank you all for your patience, understanding and cooperation at this difficult moment. I send my prayers to you all. **Fr Paul***