**CORONA VIRUS & CHURCH (Fr. Wilmot)**

Hello everyone. I hope you are taking it easy and enjoying your family and friends in a special way at this most difficult time for us all. Do make sure especially that you check in on the elderly, sick and those in special difficulty. Most people have phones and emails so use them productively and remember to maintain the distances and procedures as advised by the medical authorities.

Radio, television and news media can also be useful at this time. However, be sure to avoid “know it alls” and those who might lead you astray.

While we will not be having public Masses or services for the near future, I shall have a meeting with all our trustees and will keep you informed. Also I will have passed on to you what I hear from our diocese and other sources.

**CONFESSIONS** will onlybe by appointment so call me if you need this and we will arrange something. I will have more news regarding baptisms etc. and will pass it on as soon as I hear something.

**BAPTISMS ETC.** I will soon have more information on this and all the sacraments that I will have passed on.

**FUNERALS** will have to be smaller & simpler or postponed but we will be sure to bury our dead with customary repect.

I have a meeting planned with our trustees– whether live or by some other means – for next Wednesday and will keep you informed. I am in constant contact with fellow priests, diocesan and state authorities and will have what I learn passed on as soon as I can.

There will be no weekend public Masses but I will be saying my private Mass at 10 a.m. on Sunday and suggest that everyone who can join from homes or wherever they are in prayer at this time if possible. Of course there will be many opportunities to view and hear Mass on several channels also this weekend.

Other news, we have a new Vicar General, Fr. William Thompson, whom I know well and who will do a good job. Welcome him with open hearts – and minds. Great things lie ahead but we must stay patient.

This Corona epidemic will pass but it is best to be careful when dealing with something that we do not yet fully understand. I am confident that this will pass so long as we are all faithful, unselfish and sensible.

God bless you all. Watch this space. Fr.W.