

To the Parishioners of St. Mary of the Visitation,

We have now been closed for the past month due to the resurgence of the pandemic. With at least two weeks more of closure, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the church reopening in the near future. This has been a difficult time for many people; being separated from family and friends; having the schools closed; and having our lives disrupted with the limitations imposed on all of us.

The present closure is also affecting St. Mary's Church. Liturgical celebrations that had been scheduled have been canceled or rescheduled for a later date, as we are anxiously looking at the calendar, not sure of when we might reopen. We are looking towards the future and still planning to celebrate First Holy Communion Masses in April and the sacrament of Confirmation in May.

In just a few weeks Lent will begin on February 17 (Ash Wednesday). Perhaps, during this Lenten time, we can pray for those who have suffered and those who have died due to the pandemic. Let us also pray for an end to the pandemic.

My God bless you,

Fr. Robert Love

Pope Francis' Prayer to end the pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign
of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,

and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test

– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.