

March 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

When I taught at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales I worked with a professor from England by the name of Dr. Shirley Rollinson she was the Religion Studies Department Chair at the university. Dr. Rollinson was fond of reminding me that there is an old Chinese Cure that states "May you live in interesting times." It is safe to say that we are living in those times now. The current pandemic has caused a lot of changes to our normal daily routines and we need to do our best to adapt. The most important thing for us to remember is to protect ourselves health wise. Please be sure to wash your hands regularly and to be careful about having contact with other people. If you do feel sick don't hesitate to go to the emergency room. Also please be sure to stock up on the food and supplies for the coming weeks ahead.

As I know you are already aware public masses have been canceled until further notice and we have been granted dispensation by his Excellency Archbishop Wester from the Sunday obligation for the next two Sundays (March 22 and March 29). You are asked however, to please continue to make your Sunday donations. Please mail your donations to the parish office. I am hopeful that we can set up a donation button on our parish website and you will be able to make your donations that way. Remember that your donations help us keep our parish operating! Please know that I am celebrating a daily mass and the Sunday mass in my chapel in the rectory, so your mass intentions will be said. You may continue to request mass intentions and they will be said during these masses. Please be sure to watch the mass on television as often as you can. Also please be sure to continue to say your private prayers, devotions and the rosary in your homes. Prayer and common sense are our best weapons against this virus. Please remember that all group activities are cancelled until further notice. The church is presently open for individual prayer and adoration. The sacrament will not be exposed but never forget our dear Lord is still present to us in the tabernacle. The church will remain open during office hours. It is possible that this may change in the coming days. It is also difficult at this time to say what our Easter celebration will look like this year. All we can do is face this pandemic one day at a time.

These are uneasy times that we are presently experiencing and odds are things will get worse before they get better. However, we must not panic! They will get better! We must keep the faith and not lose hope. God does not abandon his children in their hour of need. Remember that Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it! My prayers are with you all.

Your brother in Christ

Fr. Jim McGowan

Pastor

San Ysidro Catholic Church