

March 16th, 2020

Dear Friends,

I have posted a video to the Facebook page outlining the most recent letter from Bishop Cutler regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

In short, it directs a suspension of all public church gatherings until at least April 3rd at which time the situation will be reassessed. This includes Sunday worship, mid-week worship, Bible studies, youth group, council meetings, and fundraisers.

Consequently, St. Mary's Pork Supper, the Storytelling night schedule for April 2nd have been postponed, and our Lenten services and studies, Lenten Lunches, Feed My Sheep, and any other parish group activities have been cancelled until further notice. We are exploring the possibility of leaving one of the churches open throughout the week for private prayer, though this presents the challenge of people who may be carrying COVID-19 bringing it into the building.

What we will be focusing on in the coming weeks is a stronger digital presence. Our Lenten course is still available online, though we won't be able to join in discussion, and on Sundays we will live-stream a service of Morning Prayer. On Wednesdays and Fridays I will also live-stream a service of the Litany & Supplication (particularly suitable for asking God's mercy in times of emergency), and provide various ways that people can foster their own spiritual lives in the absence of a gathered community.

As with everything we must approach this situation with caution and preparedness but without fear, remembering the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 18 who proclaims that God is our rock and fortress, our shield and our salvation. Let us commit everything in this coming time, through prayer, to the one who loves us, the one who is with us, and the one who has the power to heal and assuage our fears.

Your friend under the mercy of Christ,

Rev'd Colin Nicolle
Rector