



St Barnabas' Church, Limassol

in the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

16.3.2020

Dear Friends

You were all much in our thoughts yesterday when about 40 of us gathered for prayer and worship

We have now heard of new restrictions due to the virus. The Archdeacon has written to me today:

“Our action in this archdeaconry is that we should close our churches for worship and activity from today. Like the Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus we will plan to resume public worship on 10 April, Good Friday, though this of course will be subject to the unfolding situation. Please be advised that I am extending the administrative period for AGMs to be held until 30 June

(The Archdeacon adds that if 10 April is not permissible we might postpone the date of western Easter by a week and celebrate on the same day as our eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters.)”

So I am sorry to say we are suspending public services and activities including Wednesday Eucharist, Lent course, Prayer Fellowship and tabletop sales. The AGM will be rescheduled with due periods of notice observed.

Please be assured that St Barnabas' Church building remains open 24/7 (it is never locked!) as a sacred space for prayer and reflection by individuals.

Your priest will continue the pattern of saying in church – on behalf of all the Parish – Morning Prayer at 9am and Evening Prayer at 5pm. So I will be thinking of you at least twice a day! We can perhaps all observe these times of prayer in our own homes, so we are united in prayer. You can follow the prayers at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

I am very much aware that many of us live alone. Please watch out for each other as best you can – take the initiative in making that phone call to someone, it will bring much encouragement. Such a call could make a big difference. Maybe you can offer to do shopping for someone? Of course these days we can also text, email or use other forms of social media to keep "in touch". Please do not hesitate to ring the priest or email him if you'd like a chat.

Recall Paul's words 'Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ'. Let us maintain our unity in prayer and love.

Tomorrow is St Patrick's Day. Let's use his prayer tomorrow – and everyday!

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

with my love and prayers

Fr Andrew