



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

Dear Friends

Last night the Prime Minister announced a strict new set of measures to help combat COVID-19. This included the closure of all churches, including for private prayer. Today the Archbishops have written, outlining what this means for us and encouraging all of us to play our part in protecting the health of the nation. The letter can be found [here](#) while there is also a [poster](#) to display on your church door and notice boards. The Diocesan FAQs are being updated to include these new restrictions.

We would draw to your attention to the following in the Archbishops' statement: "It is also imperative that as the Church of Jesus Christ, called to offer hope and light in the darkness of this world's ills, we maintain a praying presence for our community, though from today onwards this must happen from our hearts and from our homes. Our Church buildings are closed but the Church must continue to support and encourage our communities making use of telephones and other forms of technology to keep in touch with people and ensure pastoral care is maintained, and as shepherds of Christ's flock we are committed to making this happen."

We are encouraged by the many ways you are already making this happen. We will be working with you over the coming days and weeks to create further resources to support our mission during this period.

With our prayers for you all

The Bishops and Bishop's Staff Team

[Poster for Church Buildings](#)

[Archbishops and Bishops Letter - 24 March 2020](#)