

# OUR LADY OF LORETTO & ST MICHAEL MUSSELBURGH

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

	THE SEASON OF LENT	Mass Intentions
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> March	FIFTH SUNDAY	Libby McVey AV
Sunday	Mass Tranent Mass	Pro Populo Margaret O'Mara AV
Monday	Mass	NHS Staff
Tuesday	Mass	Margaret Reynolds RIP
Wednesday	Mass	Agnes Craig RIP
Thursday	Mass Funeral	Gerry Ralf RIP/ Charles Moohan RIP Charles Moohan RIP
Friday	Mass	Delia McCluskey RIP
Saturday Vigil	Mass Confessions by appointment	George Ritchie AV
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> April	PASSION SUNDAY	Nora Grehan & Maureen Rodzik AV
	Mass Tranent Mass	Julia Macdonald RIP

My sisters and brothers,

The Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic Christianity, is no longer available as this time of social distancing continues. It's a strange time when standing together demands we live apart and the common good served by social isolation. I am reminded however of the many other ways in which we share communion with the Lord not least in personal times of prayer and bible study. We have within us, by God's grace, a real share in Christ's Real Presence, gifted in Baptism and made real by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. There is a real presence in Scripture, where the Word of God speaks to our hearts and lives. There is a real presence in the Community of Faith which is still be open too us – so stay in contact, reach out to one another by whatever means is available remembering always that after seeing someone it is the voice of the other we remember most. Talk to one another.

"While we can't be physically together we invite you to join our virtual parish through Whatsapp . See the parish website <http://www.musselburghcatholic.org/> for the link.

The parish website and Facebook page are being regularly updated with prayer and reflection resources so keep looking. This includes an audio Stations of the Cross which you might like to listen to in your home on a Wednesday and Friday evening at 7pm and pray along with others in our parish community.

If you are feeling alone, or anxious or just need a friendly voice to talk to, please contact Fr Basil who will arrange for someone to be in touch with you. Please don't hold back, we all need support and companionship in our lives, especially when things are difficult. Our faith community is here to support you"

There is also a real presence in those we serve and those who serve us. I am amazed and grateful not just at the doctors, nurses and other medical professionals who put themselves in harm's way but also for the person at the checkout in Aldi's, the shelf stacker in Tesco's, the Bus Driver indeed all who continue to work to keep the community functioning. This then is a time for Eucharist, thanksgiving, gratitude and kindness – the reality is always available to us to share with others even when the sacramental signs are not.

While Communion is not available nevertheless each day Fr Hugh and I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and will continue to do so for as long as we are able. We offer it for the intentions mentioned but also for all who suffer and all carers professional or otherwise. The Archbishop suggests that each day you use an old custom of making an act of spiritual communion: *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Please continue to pray for me.

*Fr Basil*

**Please remember to pray for the sick:**

For those with Covid 19, and June Fleming, Anne Marie Bevan, Colin Wills, The Graham Family, Jane Fairnie, Natalie Archibald, Edward Brown, Hugh Rodgers, John Toal, Laura Hepburn, Baby Archie Herkes, Hugh Scott, Albert A Binnie, Helen Archibald, Paulina Nosal, Alice Najafian, James Valley.

**For the duration of this emergency an email will suffice if you wish someone added to this list.**

**Anniversaries:** Maria Pye, Sheena Gillespie, Nora Grehan Kathryn Farrell , Andrew Moffat, Mairead Innes, Caryle Hughes Dominic Di Rollo, Libby McVey, Margaret O'Mara Mary Mullarkey, Thomas Quinn, Mary McGillivray.

## Archdiocesan regulations during the emergency since Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

### Visiting the Sick and Elderly, and taking Holy Communion to them

Due to the new regulations announced yesterday, neither you nor your Eucharistic Ministers may now visit the Sick. The only call that you may respond to is to someone in danger of death.

### Penance & Reconciliation

The obligation of social distancing will also create some difficulty with regard to the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation. If you are approached for the Sacrament of Penance, therefore, you must take into account all the Government's hygiene precautions and maintain a significant distance between yourself and the penitent.

### The Anointing of the Sick & Viaticum

Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum should only be carried out in danger of death. If you do anoint someone, let me suggest that you follow the advice from NHS Lothian ([attachment 7](#)). If you are over 70, or have underlying conditions, do not expose yourself to risk. Those who do anoint those in danger of death must observe all the Government's hygiene precautions strictly.

Anointing may be applied (e.g. on the back of the hands) using a piece of cotton wool, to be used once and then disposed of properly. In hospital you will be required to put on a disposable gown, mask, and gloves.

### Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals

Baptisms and Marriages have been suspended by the State. Funerals now consist solely in a short ceremony either at the graveside or the crematorium, attended by only the immediate family members: how many people will depend on the State, and perhaps the Funeral Directors. No matter how many people come, social distancing must be observed. Please choose Rites from the books that will make the moment significant but brief. Offer also to celebrate a Requiem Mass on the day itself for the deceased, although you must do so until further notice without the presence of the people.

*Does all this constitute a lack of Faith? Unhesitatingly NO. Our Catholic faith teaches us two things: firstly, that we are given the gift of reason and reason tells us that togetherness (at this time) is best served by staying apart. Secondly, God's grace does not supplant human nature rather it co-operates with it – the human person is one body, mind and soul and God's grace works with us as one. It is therefore our Christian responsibility to co-operate with the civil authorities and so the Churches have must take a lead in this.*

*Please do not hesitate to call me in danger of death. If your loved one is in hospital or a nursing-home then it is a member of staff who must call and then we must follow the guidance of the staff. There are now various protocols we must comply with.*

*Funerals too are going to be even more painful. We will have to arrange them by telephone and then conduct a simple graveside service or service at the crematorium. I will say Holy Mass privately for the person on the day of the funeral. When all of this is over then a public 'celebration of the persons life' can be celebrated if the family choose.*

Fr Basil



Please continue to support SCIAF if you are able by putting your change into the Wee Boxes. If you are out for exercise, then you could drop them off at the Clergy House – the porch is open. I will send off a cheque for the same as we raised in last year's collection – I am reminded that Covid 19 is also in countries with out the blessing of the British NHS.

### Contributing to the parish through your Bank.

My thanks to those of you who have changed over to supporting the parish using Standing Orders. Amazing given the other circumstances surrounding us. They are simple to set up and if you are interested then text me on:

**07732 69 42 30**

**East Lothian Foodbank** – Again if you are still able to contribute then leave what you are able to give in the Porch. I bought 100 Easter Eggs for the children's Egg hunt. These will now be given to the Foodbank for distribution



My thanks also to those who have left food in the porch for Fr Hugh and I. It is very much appreciated. We are now doing our own shopping, cooking, cleaning and laundry. Yesterday we gave Laurel and Hardy a run for their money – ladders, sinks, curtains and a flying Fr Hugh. Bruised but unbowed we carry on.