

20 March 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you for your response to the crisis. We are still the body of Christ and we are praying for each other each day.

Hopefully, there are going to be messages and updates on different ways we can help and bless each other in the next few days and weeks. As we are just beginning to discover what this new season of our life together means, can I encourage us whatever else we are doing, to join together in **prayer** this Sunday.

You will see that the Archbishops, together with the Presidents of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, have called for a **national day of prayer and action on Sunday 22 March**. They are asking us to pray together especially at **7.00pm** and to light a candle and place it in the window.

The set psalm for this Sunday is **Psalm 23**. There could be no better model of prayer to use for ourselves, our families, our church communities, our hospitals and care homes, our government and local authority leaders, and our most vulnerable.

Please could we also include in our Psalm 23 prayer our link dioceses in **Melanesia and Congo**. We have heard from Bishop William in Boga that the virus has reached the city of Bunia. There are many places in the world that do not have the medical resources we have.

I know, if we can, we will be harnessing the amazing gifts of technology to help us pray and worship. **Chester Cathedral** will be live streaming worship at 10.00am as in line with the guidance from the Archbishops there will be no service of public worship. Please see directions for how to access the live stream and let others know.

If you would like to see how others in scripture learnt how to pray when apart from the Temple and one another, have a [look at this good teaching](#) from Nick Moore at Cranmer Hall Durham.

So, let's pray, knowing wherever we are, whoever we are, and whatever our condition of health, the promise remains because we can say, **"The Lord is my Shepherd"**.

With love in Christ

+Keith