

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Isaiah 40:1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the Diocese of Tampere, let me express our deepest sympathy to those who are suffering the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic both in Manchester and in the whole of UK. Our thoughts and prayers are with those infected, as well as with their family members and beloved ones. We remember those who are concerned about the future. We stand in solidarity with the Diocese of Manchester in this emergency which seems like a crisis unseen in Europe since WWII.

Last weeks have dramatically shaken the very fundamentals of our lifestyle. Right now, we are unable to see how the current crisis will come to an end. There is a lot of fear, uncertainty and anxiety in the air. Besides these feelings, ordinary people have shown incredible solidarity and resilience. As Christians, we do believe that love overcomes all obstacles, including fear and anxiety. Wherever hope is inspired against all odds, the Spirit of God is present.

We keep praying for our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Manchester. During this special season of Lent, I would like to greet you with words of the Apostle Paul:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Tampere, March 19, 2020

Yours,



Rt Revd Dr Matti Repo

Bishop of Tampere