Because of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the Church is no longer able to provide her usual pastoral care, especially for the sick and elderly. At Masses celebrated in private, priests continue to pray for the parish. Priests and deacons remain at the service of the people of the parish and they are called to pray for all who are suffering from the virus, and for those doctors, nurses and medical staff who are devoting their lives to caring for the sick and the dying; and for all the others in our community who are helping in any way to provide help for people who are confined to their homes.

Celebration of Mass

Mass is being streamed live from many churches and this includes our Cathedral at Shrewsbury which provides services of prayer during each day of the week. You can find full details on the diocesan website. This is one form of spiritual Communion that you can use during the celebration of Mass.

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 to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Funerals

Funerals can now only take place with a short service of committal at the graveside or in the crematorium, attended only by close members of the family. The priest will remember the deceased in his private Mass, and after the crisis is over, Memorial Masses may be celebrated for those
who have died at which family and friends may gather to pray for the repose of the sole of their loved one. To arrange a funeral please contact a Funeral Director and Father William.

**Visits to homes**

Visits to homes for those who are seriously ill are permitted, as long as the necessary hygiene and distancing regulations are followed. Ministry to the critically ill and dying is classified as essential work, for which travel is justifiable.

Parish clergy will not normally visit parishioners in hospital. If the hospital chaplain requires assistance, or if he himself falls ill, special arrangements will be made.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Because of church closures and the demands of social distancing requests for individual confession will be difficult to meet. It will be reasonable for a priest to refuse a request for confession except when there is danger of death, where all the hygiene regulations must then be followed.

Confessions cannot be heard over the telephone.

Parishioners should be encouraged to follow the guidance given below for Easter Duties.

**Easter duties.**

Our Bishops have said ‘in these emergency circumstances and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation is removed.

At this time of the year, with Easter approaching, many may wonder at the obligation of their Easter Duties – that is the obligation to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and, as was usual, to go to Confession beforehand so that they were in a state of grace. The Bishops have dispensed the Easter Duties for this year.

However, the Bishops have asked us to make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect Contrition, which is also known as a Contrition of Charity, is true and real sorrow for our sins, which is created when we
realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deed and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us. We should approach this grace with humility, and with the resolution not to sin again. The following Act of Contrition may be used.

An Act of Contrition

*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

Prayer at home

The prayer and worship section of the Bulletin gives suggestions for prayer and readings based on the Sunday liturgy.

Mass and Morning and Night Prayer are streamed live from Shrewsbury Cathedral,(google Diocese of Shrewsbury for details). There is also live streaming from various churches which can be accessed through The Tablet website and other online sources.