

Dear friends,

I write this note on the eve of the feast of the Annunciation. Which means? **Nine months until Christmas Eve!** In this feast we ponder the great mystery of the Incarnation of our God. God chose, through the humble yes of Mary to dwell amongst us. In Matthew's Gospel the word of the Angel is spoken to Saint Joseph and he is told that, Jesus will be Emmanuel- "God is with us". **God is with us.** We are living in very difficult times but, in Jesus, God is with us.

Of all our holidays, Christmas is the loudest; it is boisterous, full of family, parties and celebration. But tomorrow as we reflect on the Annunciation to Mary we mark an intimate, silent moment. When Mary is asked to become the mother of God's Son she is alone. And the word spoken to her is, "Be not afraid." So as we are called to live through these alone, still and silent days let the words of the Angel echo in our souls, "Be not afraid".

Generally life in the parish has become increasingly quiet but there is still some activity. A young couple had a wedding scheduled for mid-April but of course everything had to be cancelled. They decided to have a small ceremony next Saturday but as the news progressively got worse they decided to get married yesterday evening. They had 4 family members in the congregation and it was live streamed to the groom's family out of province. In light of what is going on they wanted to face it together as husband and wife; they wanted to be married. **God is with us.**

Attached to this email is a letter from the Diocese outlining some prayer opportunities with Pope Francis. Tomorrow at noon we are all asked to pray an Our Father and on Friday there will be a special blessing for the whole world.

Father John and I are doing very well. If you need anything call and leave a message and we will get back to you. Each day we are celebrating Mass and in the evening we are offering a holy hour of Eucharistic adoration for an end of the pandemic. (Usually between 6 and 7pm) Please join us in prayer.

Please check out the parish website and like the parish Facebook Page to stay connected.

In Christ,

Father Ed