

St. John the Baptist Parish Trowbridge

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1st November 2020

RE: New government COVID regulations 31st October 2020

Dear Parishioners and my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for coming back to Mass over these last few weeks. I have been heartened and encouraged by seeing so many of you come through the doors of St. Bernadette's and St. John's.

During the first lockdown in March, I spent a great deal of time and effort making sure that our lovely places of worship would be able to welcome you back. And with the help and support of many of you, we were able to open the doors again for private prayer on the 15th June and then for public Mass on the 4th July.

At first, numbers were small, but word soon got round that we were a safe place to be during this pandemic and numbers began to increase. I spoke a couple of weeks ago about how many people were coming through the Church doors to give praise and worship to God. It has been a joy to behold.

However, the second wave of this pandemic has caused the government to announce new restrictions, including the closure of our places of worship for public Mass, beginning on Thursday 5th November.

I was saddened by this announcement. Our places of worship in the UK have been safe places for the celebration of the sacraments. To be asked to close once again for Mass is hard. Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols has also expressed his sadness and grievance to the government. Please read the attached letter.

We are able though to remain open for private prayer. At least this is something. Please come and pray for an end of this terrible disease. All opening times of our Churches are available on the Parish website. I look forward to seeing you still. I will continue to celebrate Mass privately each day (as far as possible). You will be able to join me on You Tube and the livestream.

With my prayers and blessings

Fr. Tom