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4th November 2020

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

I am pleased to attach herewith the latest Statement from the Bishops' Conference regarding the passing into law of the Regulations concerning this present period of lockdown. Please do all you can to share this statement with all in parish communities. The statement will be placed on the Diocesan website.

I do ask you to do all that you can, in accordance with the guidance, to keep churches open for private prayer.

The Statement makes mention of the Vigil of Christ the King. I shall be leading a period of Eucharistic Adoration, livestreamed from the Cathedral, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and would be grateful if you could disseminate this information across parish communities. This will be an important moment for us all to join with the Church across the world, since this initiative is a part of the journey towards the next International Eucharistic Congress and will a graced time of prayer together in the midst of this time of pandemic. Information will be included on the Diocesan website and in Diocesan e-news.

With the assurance of my prayers and with every Blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Richard



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Conference on the National Lockdown

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Today, Parliament passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2nd December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings.

Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Please refer to the [Regulations](#) (for places of worship see paragraph 18) and associated [Guidance](#).

Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: *'Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity'* (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need.

This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President