

Message from Right Rev John Arnold Bishop of Salford and Chair of Trustees Continuing our support to those in need

Friday, 20th March, 2020

These are difficult times, as the whole world is confronted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Every person is affected by the need to change routines, avoiding social contact, even isolating themselves in the case of possible infection. While many will not face the full impact of the virus, we must all be wary of protecting those who are most vulnerable; the elderly and those with additional medical conditions.

For us Christians, there is a challenge and an invitation. Our Gospel values call us to love our neighbour and Pope Francis reminds us of that priority to reach out to poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. We are being called to be Church in a very different way in these coming months. Much of our public celebration of our faith is suspended but our actions of love and care and concern are all the more important. The work of Caritas Diocese of Salford and all its associated members and partners makes a significant impact on the social issues of our day. In the light of our present circumstances, our actions, and our care for our neighbours, are all the more important as we build a community that allows no-one to be excluded, to feel alone. Can we be sure to be contacting the isolated, offering to shop for those who cannot manage for themselves? Are we phoning friends and neighbours to make sure that they do not feel forgotten?

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all who have committed their time and service to work and volunteer for our Caritas projects. Their dedication all year round is an example of how we can put our faith into action and live as missionary disciples. Now more than ever we rely on our staff and volunteers to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We can all do our part to help and attached is some practical advice on how you can help to keep these essential services running in these uncertain times.

In all this, we need to pray for our world that we may be responding to need, being generous in our concern for others. Even in such difficult times, so much good can be achieved.

“Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey”



+John
Bishop of Salford