

My Dear Friends,

I don't need to tell you that we are living in strange times, the instinct of the church to become more involved in the life of the community when there is a crisis has been severely challenged by this Virus.

My prayers are with you all as you and I come to terms with the significant changes in our pastoral ministry and in what we are able to do. Can I also ask that the retired clergy keep a pastoral contact with your Rector/Priest in Charge, they will be feeling particularly isolated and frustrated.

My first comment is that I want you all to stay safe and to follow the instructions from both the Church and the government, we won't help anyone if we try to become heroes or even worse martyrs. The task we have now is to keep in touch with the members of our congregations and the wider community. Please keep abreast of all the developments on the Provincial Website and in your area and help out if and when you can.

The most important thing we can do is to keep praying and offering prayers for others but please don't stress about your ability or lack of ability to produce an all singing and dancing live streamed service, do what you can and keep in touch.

I will try and send all the information that crosses my desk and would appreciate particular intentions for prayer which we can then share across the diocese.

I am now home at Arpafeelie and will be keeping office hours each morning, please don't hesitate to contact me

My Prayers and thoughts are with you all, your families and your congregations.

Blessings

be with you all

+Mark

The Most Reverend Mark Strange

Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness & Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church