



St. Patrick Parish

12 Main Street
Pelham, NH 03076
603-635-3525



18 March, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Lent, we usually choose our form of penance and prayer. This Lent, it has been given to us in the form of the Coronavirus. With COVID-19 creating such a scare and everything closing down, we are in a position we have never been in before. This manner of living is foreign to us, frightful to many, and unsettling at the least. In this time, we come face to face with our vulnerability and weakness.

Over the last few weeks, as Bishop Libasci has tried to keep his people safe, he has instituted different directives for Mass. This past Tuesday evening, he wrote to the priests telling us that we were no longer able to celebrate public Masses during this time of uncertainty (see enclosed letter). This means that there will be **no public daily or weekend Masses**.

What does this mean for you?

- During the time when there are no public Masses, **the obligation to go to Mass is lifted**.
- If you have booked a Mass intention, that intention will be remembered in a private Mass.
- Not knowing when the restrictions will be lifted, **there may not be Easter Sunday Masses**. (If the restrictions are lifted before Easter, the Mass schedule will be 8am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.)
- The Eucharistic Chapel will continue to remain open 24/7 for you to come and pray before our Lord.
- As of the writing of this letter (the situation changes daily), I will also be offering Adoration in the Church during the usual Mass times.

I encourage you to keep an eye on the parish website (www.stpatricks-pelham.com) or Facebook page for updated information. Please contact the Parish Office (603-635-3525) if you are aware of **someone who is unable to shop** for necessities; people have stepped forward who want to help out.

I invite you in this time to greater trust in the Lord. Jesus is Lord, and we are His beloved. You are precious to Him. Know that every day, I go through the parish register and pray for you by name.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Ken