

To all friends at Christ Church West Wimbledon – Michael’s Messages 3

Just a brief message today to mention two things:

1. **The religious leaders are asking people to recite the Lord’s Prayer today, Wednesday 25 March at noon Rome time (11am UK time).** The Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis will join forces to encourage millions of Christians to come together for a worldwide recital of the Lord's Prayer in whatever version or language suits you best. Archbishop Justin said: “When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray he taught them the words that we know as the Lord’s Prayer or the Our Father. This prayer gives us words to pray even when we don’t know how or what to pray. “I will be joining with Pope Francis and with Christians all round the world to pray the Lord’s Prayer at 1100 London time (1200 Rome) tomorrow, commending the world into God’s merciful care at this difficult time.” March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation which commemorates the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, when he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. The Dean of Southwark has written this special prayer for us all to use at this time:

A prayer in lockdown

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked.

(John 20.19)

**Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus’ sake.
Amen**

With my continued thoughts, prayers and good wishes to you all,

Michael, Vicar