

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS



The Presbytery
6, Melbourn Rd
ROYSTON
Herts
SG8 7DB

philipknights@rcdow.org.uk

01763 243117

Dear *Missio* Local Secretaries,

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are well. I wanted to write and check in and assure you I am thinking about you. I am offering Mass (albeit privately) for you, our *Missio* Local Secretaries, each Friday.

We are all going through a disruptive and frustrating time at the moment. I can't speak for you, but I am finding my sleep pattern has gone awry, my dreams are weird and I am finding it difficult to concentrate and am being even more irritable than usual: above all I want to get through this lockdown safely and emerge into doing the things we all want to do. But I, and we, shall survive. This time is discombobulating (I've always wanted an excuse to use that word) but faith, hope and charity will bring us through.

However, there are many things we simply cannot do at the moment. Not least our usual pattern of membership appeals in parishes, mission animation and celebration events and, of course, collecting in, counting and banking our red boxes has necessarily been put on hold. The most important thing I can say to that is: 'don't worry'. There will be time once the present restrictions have been fully lifted that we will be able to re-commit ourselves to the world mission of the Church. Right now: keep as well as you can; pray for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who have been severely affected by the pandemic; pray for our missionaries striving to be messengers of hope and love in very difficult circumstances.

I have been in contact with colleagues regionally and nationally and we are thinking through what our next step will be. As the politicians begin to talk about 'light at the end of the tunnel', let us be hopeful and patient. It is probable that our income will be down this year, we shall simply have to re-double our efforts next year to make up. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me. Our parish secretary is on furlough, so there may not be anyone in the Office, however, I will answer when I can, and e-mails are very efficient.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Philip Knights', written in a cursive style.

Fr Philip Knights, Diocesan Director *Missio* APF, Westminster

May 2020