

Caritas Plymouth – COVID-19 Guidance and Support for Parishes

The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity (caritas).

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"Let us love, not with words but with deeds"

Although this document will be updated regularly, please check <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> for the latest guidance before considering any parish action

Covid-19 – Supporting those in need

Inspired by Catholic faith, Caritas is the helping hand of the Church – reaching out to the poor, vulnerable and excluded, regardless of race or religion, to build a world based on justice and fraternal love. We support the network of social action charities, schools and parishes within the Diocese of Plymouth, working in partnership with them to help poor, vulnerable and marginalised people.

Vulnerable people are more likely to be at risk from COVID 19 because they have underlying health problems and limited access to good welfare facilities. Vulnerable people can include the homeless, older people and those living with long term conditions. Many parishes and individuals are looking for ways to support the most vulnerable.

This guide updates a previous version and incorporates new guidance from CSAN and SVP on volunteering opportunities and how to volunteer safely. We will also be updating our page on the Plymouth Diocese website <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/caritas/>.

If you think of any ways in which Caritas Plymouth can support you at this time please call me or the Caritas Manager, Deborah Fisher, on 07761 595567 or email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Canon John Deeny

Catholic Charities and Covid-19: Rt Rev Terence P Drainey

These are difficult times, as the whole world is confronted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Government bodies have published guidance on how we can protect each other, and especially those who are most vulnerable. I would like to address three points touching on the practice of charity. How can individuals reach out to people who are poor, vulnerable or excluded from society in some way?

Firstly, our common humanity helps us recognise that our actions, and our care for neighbours, are particularly important in the face of a pandemic. Can we be sure to contact people who are 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? Caritas Social Action Network and the St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) have produced a simple pandemic planning template which we hope will be of use.

Secondly, I would encourage everyone in England and Wales to support charities and local groups serving the common good in these countries. Caritas Social Action Network, which I chair, is an official agency of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, dedicated to aiding the poor and isolated living in these parts of the United Kingdom. Working with local Catholic organisations, Caritas Social Action Network speaks up for some of the most vulnerable people in our society – including people who are homeless, sick, in prison, and families unable to make ends meet – and represents concerns of Catholic charities to Government. During the Coronavirus pandemic the need for support has increased and we are working even harder. Caritas Social Action Network, with many other charities serving communities in England and Wales, now faces the impacts of increased costs, fewer volunteers and a potential loss of income. Alongside reaching out to individuals, can we reach out to charities at this time, offering them whatever support we can to continue to function?

Thirdly, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis renewed encouragement to each parish, as a community of communities, to consider its social outreach. Beyond the pandemic, what are the opportunities for parishes to renew their social ministries? In support of this work, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales welcomed [Reaching Out](#), published by Caritas Social Action Network in December 2019. It is based on an exciting set of real-life stories from Catholic parishes, on developing local connections, especially those that older people feel are right for them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all who have committed their time and service to charitable activities locally and nationally, and particularly to organisations in the Caritas network in England and Wales. Their dedication all year round is an example to Catholics of how we can put our faith into action and live as missionary disciples. Now more than ever we rely on charities' staff and volunteers to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

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

Rt Rev Terence P Drainey
Chair of Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN): Bishop of Middlesbrough



What can we do to help in the Diocese of Plymouth?

As we live through a period of disruption and increased risk for the most marginalised in our society, our parishes and communities across the Diocese are considering how best how they can help those in need. There are already some great examples of action already underway:

- Provide spiritual support and encouragement – some parishes are phoning vulnerable parishioners to offer prayer and practical support, others (including the [Cathedral](#)) are live streaming masses or putting services on You Tube
- Encourage people to reduce the risk to themselves and others – follow government guidance on self-isolation and reducing the risk of infection.
- Donate items to your local foodbank – following local guidance shows how to do this safely <https://www.trusselltrust.org/coronavirus-food-banks/>
- Consider how to support people living alone who are self-isolating in your community – check on friends and neighbours via phone or email.
- Some parishioners are creating buddy networks of people who will keep in touch via phone or email. This is entirely voluntary. [People should only share contact details with people already well known to them and as part of a network].
- If people are well, consider volunteering for local organisations which are offering food deliveries or other support in your community. If you don't have a particular charity you want to support in your local area, contact your [local Volunteer Centre](#), [CVS](#) or visit the [Do-it website](#). They can help you find out where your help is most urgently needed. Sign up to [NHS Volunteer Responders](#) who are supporting the NHS during the covid-19 outbreak.
- Share Pope Francis's [prayer](#) to Virgin Mary for protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

*At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.*

You..... know what we need.

*We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:*

*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

*Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious
and blessed Virgin.*

Don't forget

It is important to consider safeguarding when supporting people who may be vulnerable. Care must be taken to ensure that activities are organised so as to reduce the risk of harm to all participants. Within a parish, the Parish Priest, in conjunction with the Diocesan Safeguarding Commission, has responsibility for the pastoral care of the community with special regard for those most vulnerable. Each parish should have a Safeguarding Representative who should be consulted about any activities which are being organised that involve children or vulnerable adults. From the outset, please make sure you involve them in your plans.

How to Volunteer and Help Safely

Many parishioners are volunteering to offer practical, emotional and social support to other parishioners, neighbours and their local community – but we need to ensure that everyone stays safe. The Government has published some guidance on helping people to stay safe – both those volunteering and those accepting help. Here are some key details:

How to stay safe when accepting help from others

Please refer to [guidance on staying at home](#) Here are some top tips to pass on to people received support:

If you are receiving voluntary help do not share financial details like credit/debit card numbers or personal information.

If someone you don't know calls at your home, always ask for ID and always ensure you are comfortable sharing details like your phone number or address. (If you know the name of a parish volunteer who is calling but have never met them, you can ask to see their driving license or other ID) Only provide information on a need to know basis and if you have seen ID. Do not feel pressured into providing information. If you have doubts about those who are approaching you, and are concerned, it is advised that you don't engage, and report serious suspicious behaviour to the police.

Remember that genuine volunteers have been instructed not to enter your home.

Volunteering

Volunteering that requires going out of the house is now only permitted in certain circumstances. If you are well and are not at risk from coronavirus you can undertake essential activities including:

- Delivering food
- Helping people with their medical needs, such as picking up prescriptions
- Providing essential care or to help a vulnerable person or person(s), including through essential public and voluntary services, such as food banks, homeless services, and blood donation sessions

For more information on what sort of help is most needed and how to help safely please see the [guidance](#) from the Government.

Safeguarding Factsheet

The Government has issued a new factsheet for community volunteering during the [Covid-19 outbreak](#)

Where people require support the first option should always be to rely on friends, family, or neighbours who already know one another. If this is not possible, there are some very simple steps that can be taken to make arrangements with community volunteers as safe as possible. Particular care must be taken where children or vulnerable adults, such as those with dementia or other medical needs, are helped.

The factsheet (and accompanying FAQ document) is designed to address specific concerns that people involved in supporting their community may have at this time.

The only people who are legally prevented from volunteering with children and vulnerable adults are those who have been barred from doing so by DBS. If you have been barred from certain types of work, then you would be committing an offence by trying to do that work.

Community Groups should ask their volunteers if they have been barred. If they have been barred, then you should not allow them to work closely with children or vulnerable adults. For further information, see DBS guidance on barring.

Safeguarding Contacts

Should anyone require additional advice on any aspect of safeguarding including Disclosure and Barring Service checks, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are available to assist on the following numbers and email addresses.

Robert Brown 01364 645431 email robert.brown@prcdtr.org.uk

Annette Moody-Burkinshaw 01364 645432 email Annette.moody-burkinshaw@prcdtr.org.uk

Robert Kingdon 01364 645434 email robert.kingdon@prcdtr.org.uk

COVID 19 and Data Protection

Whilst we are in a time of crisis, we still need to comply with Data Protection legislation. However, such legislation is not a bar to helping those in need. A key purpose of the Diocese is to support people and as such it is in the legitimate interests of our church community to help those in need. As such it is lawful to use data that we hold for the purpose of helping those in need at this time of national emergency. What we must do is ensure we manage such data appropriately and only for the purpose of helping those who need our support. Please do ensure that if parishes or groups are collating lists of people to call or help with shopping etc. that data must be held securely and only shared with those who need to see it in order to carry out the support. People should always be asked for their consent for their data to be stored. Any questions about data storage and collection please contact Robert Brown Robert.brown@prcdtr.org.uk

Scam Phone Calls emails and texts

Regrettably even in these difficult times there are those who would seek to prey on the sick and vulnerable. We are aware of a number of scams and that fraud cases linked to Covid-19 are increasing dramatically. Further advice on such crimes is available on the Action Fraud website <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

The St Vincent de Paul Society have been very quick to put measures and guidance in place to support parishes in being able to quickly implement both 'knock and drop' and are also still welcoming new Members through the usual application process. There are a number of conferences active across the Diocese. 'Knock and drop' - The guidelines permit people to join as temporary Members of the Society (applications through an online form can often be processed on the same a day) for delivery of foods, care packages and medicine. These volunteers do not require a DBS although this would of course be preferable. New Temporary Members, together with other local members can work together to support and coordinate a more significant and sustainable effort. They are guided and supported with training and resources, peer-support among other Members and the security of working within a framework which is covered by insurance and has robust safeguarding and GDPR policy and support.

Full Membership is open to all people who wish to apply through the standard recruitment (by paper or online) process. While over 70s and high-risk individuals are not eligible for Temporary Membership they are certainly welcome in this standard application process. Individuals are invited to apply to join local SVP Conferences (groups) or if there is not a Conference near you, we would welcome a conversation together about forming your own parish Conference (which for the time being can be achieved virtually).

If a parish does not already have its own befriending group, local outreach group or equivalent (with strong procedures in place) then the temporary or full membership to the SVP is a safe, quick and effective response to the current crisis. For individuals seeking to help, for more information about this please visit www.svp.org.uk/svps-response-covid-19 to join with the efforts in your local area. If the enquiry is about starting a new parish group, please email the Head of Membership Jon Cornwall, jonc@svp.org.uk who will get back to you as soon as possible. SVP have suggested a number of types of action parishes might take along with risk assessments which are available for download and use.



TEMPLATES.docx

SVP suggest bringing together individuals using the phone/video-conferencing, etc. to form a network might include:

- The Parish Priest, Deacons and Religious, Parish Safeguarding Representative and an administrator acting in a voluntary capacity
- People in the parish holding a DBS certificate
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- The local SVP Conference and parish outreach or justice and peace group, if there is one
- People with skills in setting up and coaching those not familiar with online media
- People with a relevant professional background, such as counselling, health or social care.

Services which are based on contact by telephone to address isolation and engage people are the most straightforward way forward. Referring people onto services or volunteer opportunities, offering a shopping or prescription collection service or cooking meals for people, etc. are all possible and the [SVP](http://www.svp.org.uk) can give you advice.

Parish or SVP conference action template

The following template is designed by SVP to help parishes think through their local response:

1. The tools at our disposal: which resources do we have in the parish or conference that we could contribute?

These may be volunteers, existing partnerships with local charities, financial and material resources. Volunteers who are themselves needing to socially distance might be willing to spend an afternoon on the phone with others.

Generous people may wish to respond to a need but may not know how to do so safely and in an effective way. Can you help by addressing any barriers to volunteering?

Which technologies are at your disposal? Can you find other ways to meet face-to-face without being in person? [Have you ever tried using Zoom <https://zoom.us/> or Microsoft Teams?]

2. How might the pandemic further affect those in need?

At this time of great uncertainty, we are expecting to see a rise in material poverty, financial poverty, the poverty of isolation and indeed the poverty of hope. What are the greatest needs in your local community and what support might you be able to contribute? [You must not visit people unless working with a recognised charity which has infection control measures in place]

3. How can we care for isolated members of our own community but respecting Government guidance on staying at home?

Are there people you are already aware of?

Does your parish priest, or other clergy or religious need help?

How will you coordinate your responses? Which means of communication will you use? Is there merit to having a designated phone number?

4. How can we make this support effective and lasting?

It looks as if the pandemic will last for some months. The needs will change, so how will you review your plans?

Have you considered safeguarding and GDPR considerations to ensure that people are protected?

5. More resources can be found at:

www.csan.org.uk/policy/coronavirus

<https://www.svp.org.uk/svps-response-covid-19>

Signposting

The current restrictions on movement make it more difficult for people to respond directly through community action. The following sites may be help parishes in responding to any requests from parishioners or their local community

Food insecurity	<p>The Trussell Trust website has a page offering guidance to those who need food or who wish to donate to enable people to find a local donation point https://www.trusselltrust.org/coronavirus-food-banks/</p>
Financial issues	<p>The government website can give advice to people about claiming Statutory Sick Pay as well as guidance for people who are self employed https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19</p> <p>There is a new scheme for the self-employed or members of a partnership and have lost income due to coronavirus. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme</p> <p>CAB has guidance for people who may be struggling to pay bills. Its important people don't ignore bills. Speak to the organisation they owe money to - they might be able to help by letting people pay smaller amounts or take a break. It's also worth checking with a bank or building society - they might be able to help with your debts or delay loan or credit card repayments. There is also some useful guidance for people who cannot pay rent and other situations https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/if-you-cant-pay-your-bills-because-of-coronavirus/</p>
	<p>The Child Poverty Action Group has brought together useful information on benefits and coronavirus https://askcpag.org.uk/?id=-216847</p>
	<p>Be Scam Aware! Action Fraud has some examples as well as ways to avoid getting caught out. https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/coronavirus-scam-costs-victims-over-800k-in-one-month</p> <p>Online experts have put together some top tips about how to protect yourself, your loved ones, finances and devices from the scams that are currently circulating. As well as advice about keeping yourself and your organisation protected whilst working from home. To see more about online safety during this uncertain time visit www.getsafeonline.org/coronavirus</p>
Guidance for older people	<p>The Silverline is a 24/7 free, confidential helpline for older people https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/</p> <p>Age UK has produced some helpful guidance on its website https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/coronavirus/coronavirus/</p>
Guidance for Carers	<p>Devon Carers recognises that Carers may be particularly isolated as their usual support services may have stopped during the pandemic: https://devoncarers.org.uk/help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/</p>
Council Services	<p>Councils are producing advice for people about how services might be affected during the current disruption.</p>

	<p>Cornwall: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health-cornwall/information-about-coronavirus-covid-19/</p> <p>Devon https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/</p> <p>Dorset https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-advice.aspx</p> <p>Torbay https://www.torbay.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/coronavirus/</p> <p>Plymouth https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom/mainstories/latestinformationaboutcovid19</p> <p>Poole and Bournemouth https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/COVID19/Coronavirus-Covid-19.aspx</p>
Homelessness	<p>Groundswell have produced Coronavirus advice and planning guidance for people experiencing homelessness https://groundswell.org.uk/coronavirus/</p> <p>St Petroc's continues to offer some services and is also seeking support with supplies – updates can be found at https://stpetrocs.org.uk/news/st-petrocs-update/</p>
People whose first language is not English	<p>Doctors of the World have produced Coronavirus guidance in 26 languages https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/#</p>
Engaging others	<p>The Government's Campaign Looking out for each other aims to inform those who are well and not at risk, of the things that they can do to help support their friends and neighbours who need to stay at home because of Coronavirus (Covid-19). There are visual resources to guide people on what kind of help can be offered and how to do it safely (e.g. posters, social media images/messages, web banners, digital screens).</p>
Faith	<p>Faith Action has collated guidance from national bodies representing different religious traditions.</p> <p>The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have a range of guidance on their website</p>
Bereavement	<p>The Art of Dying Well (Catholic support service on living, dying and bereavement) has excellent materials on its website. The SVP, in partnership with the Art of Dying Well and others are running weekly webinars at 6pm every Thursday addressing a series of topics, including telephone befriending, addressing grief, seeking and finding those in need etc.</p> <p>Government advice on what to do after death and in particular, about funerals, is available. If someone thinks a person is a risk to themselves or others they should contact the police or social services, depending on the degree of risk. For other concerns try suggesting they speak to their GP or use the NHS helplines and resources.</p>

Resources to use with children at home

Here are some Christian-focused sites which have resources and ideas that families can use at home.

CAFOD

CAFOD have some [excellent resources](#) for both schools and children's liturgy. It has a page with resources to use at home during [school closure](#). The primary activities are probably more aimed at KS1, they include a colouring sheet and a short power point about the Romero cross. It's a good starting point to use to expand into creative activities, such as designing and making a cross of your own or one for the family. For KS2 and above, it's worth looking at the secondary school section. There are some great resources including a video clip on Saint Oscar Romero. There are a few video clips that you could use to discuss things or as a starting point for a project.

Messy Church

The messy church website has a wide range of activities that are used at messy church events, but you could use them in the home. It is particularly worth exploring the resources section. There is a subsection in the resources called '[ideas and advice](#)'. What is nice is that you can focus on areas such as scientific although most activities have a creative focus. It gives some ideas of things to do and links to other resources.

Christian Education

This is a more formal site that offers [home education materials](#). They charge for their resources.

Tear fund

There are a few projects that give information about how some people live and the challenges they face. [One Big Mountain](#) has all the resources online, so you can easily access them.

Bible Reading Fellowship

The [BRF site](#) has links to support families and young people's learning. There is a link to scripture and prayer.

Appendix1: Additional Guidance on safety for volunteers and recipients in a shopping scheme

Deliveries can be a serious opportunity for infection of the people you are delivering to, and also to you. As people can often not appear to have the symptoms when they are in fact infectious, you must think that everyone we meet could have Covid-19 virus and behave accordingly. Every contact is an opportunity for infection. We ask for your help to keep people safe and to help us keep you safe, by following this guidance.

1 Advice for volunteers

A key consideration is to ensure people can do this safely and always act within the Government Covid-19 guidelines. For most things other than home visits (**which are not recommended**) you should not need personal protective equipment (PPE). The guidelines below follow the “no contact” / minimal contact principles.

- Touch as few surfaces as possible
- Stay 2 metres from others (6 feet) at all times
- DO NOT touch your face unless you have just washed your hands
- Stay away from people coughing or sneezing

Before you go

Ask the recipient to order and pay by phone so you don't have to handle any money or give change – a virus risk.

At the shop

1. Wash hands with water and soap for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser foam or gel.
2. Use the shop packing service and ask for it to be in bags which are not too heavy. Avoid walking round the shop to collect items if you can. If you can't, always stay 2 metres apart
3. If possible, stay outside of the shop and let the staff come out to you to give you the shopping. Do not touch your face, especially your nose, eyes or mouth.

At the recipient's home

1. Knock on the door – that is, don't use bell or knocker.
2. Place shopping and receipts(s) **on the doorstep**.
3. Walk away and **do not wait to be thanked** – communicate only by waving from a distance of over 2 metres (6 feet), through a closed window or chat by phone. Make sure you appear cheerful if you can so you're not making the person feel ashamed or stigmatised.
4. If the person comes to the door as you approach and needs to speak to you, walk back a car's length to speak and then ask them to close the door to enable you to leave the package safely.
5. Wash hands with gel/soap and water after delivery and **DO NOT touch your face, mouth or eyes including handling your glasses if you wear them UNLESS you have just washed your hands**

Back at your home

1. Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

2. Remove and wash your clothes and, once clothes are in the wash, take a shower. Clothing: these are recommended good practices based on evidence from the literature reviews, testing and effective hand hygiene procedures
3. Wear short sleeved tops (“bare below the elbows”)
4. Change immediately if clothing becomes visibly soiled or contaminated.
5. Wash clothing worn at the hottest temperature suitable for the fabric
6. Wash heavily soiled clothes separately
7. Any headgear must be worn unadorned and secured neatly.

2 Advice for people receiving shopping from someone else (please ensure they receive this in advance of the visit)

As sometimes this infection goes unnoticed you must think that everyone we meet could have Covid-19 virus, even if they display no symptoms. Every contact is an opportunity for infection. We ask for your help to keep you and the person bringing you some shopping safe, by following this guidance:

- 1) Do NOT open your door to thank the deliverer. Waving from behind a closed window is optional! If you need to speak, ask them to stand at least 2 metres (a car’s length) away from you - if you can't hear, call them on the phone.
- 2) Payment: should be over the phone as the virus can be on notes and coins.
- 3) Leave the shopping in the bag on doorstep for as long as possible – at least an hour. A longer time is preferable. If your doorstep is not secure then bring them into the house, wash your hands and leave them for an hour there.
- 4) If you can't carry heavy boxes or bags, please take your time to bring items in separately. **The deliverer must not bring your shopping into your house, that is too much risk.**
- 5) Dispose of the shopping bag in a closed bin.
- 6) Because the virus can stay on your shopping, rinse the outside packaging in the sink before putting it away if you can.
- 7) And then wash all over your hands and wrists with soap and water thoroughly for 20 seconds.

It’s a lot we know. But it just might save a life.

Appendix 2: Telephone Befriending at a time of crisis (from the Art of Dying Well):



Art of Dying
Well.pdf

Appendix 3 – prayer resources

<p><u>Opening prayer of the Mass in time of pandemic</u></p> <p>Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray; look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Amen.</p>	<p><u>Light in the darkest times:</u> <i>Prayer: Linda Jones/CAFOD</i></p> <p><i>"A light shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower." [Jn 1:5]</i></p> <p>Loving, ever-living and compassionate God, You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement, May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died. You are a light that shines in the darkest times, Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow. You comfort us in times of fear, May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart. You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion, May we follow the light of your love and spread hope. You move our hearts to acts of generosity, May we be led to share what we have with those in need. God of life, We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness, May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world. Amen.</p>
<p><u>Your loving care:</u> <i>CAFOD</i></p> <p>Lord Jesus, when you walked with us on earth you spread your healing power. We place in your loving care all who are affected by Coronavirus. Keep us strong in faith, hope and love. Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved, protect those who care for us. We lift our prayer to you Lord, and trust in your infinite mercy, as we wait for the daybreak. Amen.</p>	<p><u>Prayer for the end of the virus:</u> <i>SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the Coronavirus (CAFOD website)</i></p> <p>Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.</p>
<p><u>Infinite power and love:</u> <i>Adapted from an Ebola prayer by Caritas Guinea</i></p> <p>Lord God, we entrust to you the families and communities affected by Coronavirus, wherever they may be. We pray especially for health care workers, that you may guide and protect them. We pray that your Spirit might inspire those researching new medicines and treatments. And in the midst of this, keep us strong in faith, hope and love. Grant us the courage and perseverance to be good neighbours. May the words of your Son Jesus Christ in the Our Father, be our prayer as we entrust ourselves and all of us who are affected to your infinite power and love. Amen.</p>	<p><u>Prayer for the end of the virus:</u> <i>SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the Coronavirus (CAFOD website)</i></p> <p>Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.</p>