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Dear Father,

With some escalation of the virus, and parts of our Diocese now placed in Tier 3, I am pleased to be able to share some important information.

Travel to church

Travel to church is permitted in all areas, but individuals living in a Tier 3 area should not travel out of it to go to church. This restriction does not apply to the priest travelling to another area to celebrate Mass.

Church hall activities

Organised indoor sport physical activity or exercise classes are not permitted in Tier 3, and hobby groups are not allowed to meet. Support groups can continue and organised supervised activities for children subject to careful risk assessment. Hospitality should be strictly limited to takeaway service only.

Pastoral visits

Clergy can make pastoral visits to people in their homes, and should take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus. For further advice see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/covid-19-pastoral-care-of-the-sick/>

Notifying cases of Covid-19

Please notify E: property@abdiocese.org.uk as soon as you are aware of a confirmed coronavirus case in an individual who has attended parish premises. This address will be monitored throughout the office closure period as we have a duty to inform the Local Health Protection team immediately if five or more individuals associated with one of our venues test positive within 14 days.

Changes to self-isolation period following contact with a case

The self-isolation period following contact with an infected person is now 10 days (reduced from 14 days).

Music

As previously notified, music is allowed subject to careful risk assessment. There must be no congregational singing. There are significant risks associated with playing wind instruments and with singing or chanting at louder volumes.

I attach the guidance relevant to Tiers 2 and 3 and ask that you will continue to be most vigilant in reminding our communities of the importance of social distancing, face coverings, cleaning and hand sanitising, and use of the NHS Q Code poster.

With continued thanks for all that is being done in these challenging times of the pandemic and with the assurance of my prayers,

Yours in Christ,

+Richard