

One Day at a Time

Father Tim's Daily Reflections
during the COVID-19 crisis

Saturday 21 March

9.30am - I slept in – why not? After a shower & shave, and a nice breakfast of eggs and sausage I made for myself (I hear there are no eggs in the supermarkets, so why not?) I sat down at my desk and organised things for this weekend's private Masses: seating arrangements (keeping proper distance), homily, prayer of the faithful, announcements, etc. Plus lots of emails – I usually get about 125 emails per day, but that number has increased exponentially – just like the virus!

3.30pm – I went to church to mark out where people can and cannot sit, post directions about disposing of bulletins and other papers so the virus isn't passed on to others, and set the altar, pulpit and lectern with this weekend's rose paraments (hangings). A number of people came in and out to say their prayers, so I offered them Holy Communion, which they received devoutly and gratefully. Now I'm off to 5.00pm confessions, and then 6.00pm Mass with the first group of invitees.

9.10pm – An eventful and fulfilling evening: several confessions at 5pm, then Mass with 36 people in attendance (most of them previously invited, but four who happened to come at the opportune moment. Alessio played, Theodore sang, Terry Merchant read (it was the 1st anniversary of his wife Geraldine's death), and everyone was seated at appropriate distances from one another. After Mass, Antoinette Torre carefully wiped down door handles, etc. Tomorrow we'll clean pews after our 9am Mass (again, invitation only) to prepare for the Ordinariate 11.15am Mass (they're a small group, well within the Government's limits). Following Mass, Alessio went out for dinner to discuss how things went. We examined the Vatican's protocols, issued today, about how to go about Holy Week. But that's another day's problems; for now, I'm going to read the paper, watch some TV, and then go to bed. *(BTW: as I explained in the bulletin this weekend, I will be issuing invitations each weekend to limited numbers of parishioners to attend Mass, so everyone will get a turn. But this depends, of course, on how the pandemic proceeds and what Church and Government authorities decree.)*