



THE PARISH OF S MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, LEEDS

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Parish Priest: The Reverend Father Timothy J Whitwell MA BTh

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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Paschal joy! Surrexit Alleluia! Christ is risen, alleluia!

It's almost a month since my last letter; 'lockdown' had just started. By now, we have become aware that we can adapt to a quieter pace of life and even though social distancing has obvious drawbacks it does afford all of us time to reflect on what life is and how we derive its meaning.

Whilst I type this letter I am listing to 'Safety Dance' a song I've not heard since 1982 (yes, I was around then!) It's a rather catchy tune and good to dance to in these days of self-isolation (Shady thinks I've gone mad!) I heard the song in recent days when the American presenter Jimmy Fallow sang the song as part of 'One World: Together at Home' (Global Citizen / WHO) it was sung in tribute to all the fantastic nurses, doctors, care home staff, shop workers, truck drivers, delivery operatives, postmen and postwomen, post office workers, dustbin men, paramedics, police and fire officers, bus drivers, staff who work for the amenity providers, journalists, court staff: key workers!

In these days when we give thanks for the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour we can be quite sure that it is safe to *dance* Alleluia! Yes, the uncertainty and suffering of the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic continues and we are all being inconvenienced and life seems strange and unfamiliar. Our prayers remain for all those who are in hospital as they battle against the frail effects of coronavirus and we also keep all the marvellous healthcare staff in our prayers as they tirelessly continue to bring the hope of healing to those critically ill: thank God for the National Health Service!

Our *dance* is one that is life-giving – as we live out our faith in the living hope of Jesus Christ we do so aware that God is in the midst of all our experiences because He made us, He loves us and He cares for us: the tragedy of Good Friday gives way to the bright hope of Resurrection when the Father raises His Son for love of all the people of the world, even you and me. Easter love triumphs.

You and your families remain in my prayers, I am grateful for your faith and for all that we share – 'normality' (whatever that is!) will surely resume and I am sure in a month or so we will be hearing about when we can gather again around the Altar of God.

Meanwhile, let's patiently journey on and keep dancing! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Rev Fr Timothy J Whitwell.

Please check the Parish website regularly for news and the streaming of Mass:

<https://www.stmaximiliankolbeparishleeds.co.uk/>