

## **Update from All Saints' and an important Prayer Request Email to the Parish from The Venerable Christopher Dunn**

**31 March 2020**

As many of you know I have been making a number of phone calls and sending out a number of email updates, trying to stay connected with everyone in these challenging and changing times.

Tonight, I write requesting your help and your prayers.

I have been informed that one of our parishioners is in the hospital; it was confirmed today that they are COVID-positive. The individual had returned recently from a trip and felt unwell. Yesterday, they were placed on a ventilator. The family informs me that today the individual is continuing to be assessed.

At the request of the family, I am not saying who this is. I will assure you that you will not have been in contact with the person. But it reminds all of us that this is not some distant problem in some far-off place—it is here, it is now, and it hits home.

We have all heard a number of times that we are to stay home, we maintain physical distance from those we meet, and we ensure good hand hygiene practices. Please pray for all those this evening that await news of loved ones and for those who are fighting for their health.

As you are aware, I cannot go to the hospital, nor should I. I can not be there at the bedside to pray, anoint and lay hands on our sick parishioner. So I am going to share with you the prayer that we use at a time like this and ask you to pray with me for a “virtual” laying on of hands by the community for this individual and for all those afflicted with this virus. From the Book of Alternative Services tonight we pray together:

***Holy scripture teaches us that in acts of healing and restoration our Lord Jesus and his disciples laid hands upon the sick. By so doing they made known the healing power and presence of God. Pray that as we follow our Lord's example, you may know his unfailing love. May the Lord in his love and mercy uphold our fellow parishioner and all those afflicted with this virus by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Stay well

Chris