



OPENING our CHURCHES for PRAYER

**Take this prayer sheet away with you and use it at home.
Do not leave it behind in the church.**

A message from Bishop David

It is good to be able to offer you a few words of welcome as you return to church for some moments of personal prayer. These continue to be challenging times, but at least we are able to spend a few moments before the Blessed Sacrament today. Amongst your many prayers at this time, please do say a prayer for me as your new bishop. In asking this, I know you will remember our clergy and religious, our schools and people across the Diocese. Please do keep especially in prayer those who have suffered with coronavirus and have lost loved ones. Remember all those who are struggling with the financial impact of this crisis too. And finally, let's all pray together that we may soon gather again to celebrate public liturgy, especially Holy Mass and the sacraments.

✠ David
Bishop of Northampton

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*use all or any of these passages from the psalms
to thank God that we can pray once again in our church*

I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to God's house! *from Psalm 121*
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

For the love of my family and friends I say: Peace upon you!
For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. Glory be to the Father

from Psalm 42

O send forth your light and your truth, let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy.
Hope in God, I will praise him still, my Saviour and my God.
Glory be to the Father

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord God of hosts. *from Psalm 83*
My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.
They are happy who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

They are happy whose strength is in you, they walk with ever growing strength,
One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
Glory be to the Father

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be

Mary Immaculate – Pray for us

St Thomas of Canterbury – Pray for us

Ask the prayers of the patron saint[s] of your parish to bless your priest[s] and the parish.

*Take your time now to thank God for this grace,
for this place and for our future together as God's people.*

Father of holiness, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ your Son.
For you have blessed this work of our hands
and your presence makes it a house of prayer;
nor do you ever refuse us welcome
when we come in before you as your pilgrim people.
In this house you realise the mystery of your dwelling among us:
for in shaping us here as your holy temple
you enrich your whole Church, which is the very body of Christ,
and this brings close to fulfilment the vision of your peace,
the heavenly city of Jerusalem.

from the preface for the Dedication of a Church already in use