



Dear Father, Deacon, Religious,

I am delighted to hear that most of our churches will be open for Mass this weekend or next. This is, of course, only possible if all the requirements for opening a church for private prayer are already in place, and that any additional requirements of the Bishops' Conference and the Government can be put in place before public Masses are celebrated.

Whilst encouraging you in all your efforts, I do understand that this is a significant challenge for all of us. Change can be daunting, but in all this we are encouraged by our Lord to put our trust in him, and put out into deep water!

However, there is no pressure on any of you to do this until you and your parish community are certain that you can meet all the requirements. This might mean that it will be a little longer before this is possible. It really does matter that churches which open for public worship do so safely and securely.

I would be grateful if you would let your Dean know what your plans are with regard to celebrating Mass publicly in church. It will be useful to have a list here in Poringland.

With my prayers and good wishes for you over these next few weeks,

In Christ,

+Alan

Rt Rev Alan S. Hopes

Bishop of Eastern Anglia