



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Revised Hospital Chaplaincy Advice

Given the escalation of the Coronavirus, hospitals are having constantly to review their policy on visiting the sick which includes chaplaincy access to patients. Although each hospital will determine its own approach to these matters, it is becoming increasingly clear that giving access to chaplains is difficult due to the scarcity of PPE, the risk of contagion to the chaplain as well as the chaplain becoming another link in the chain of infection. For this reason, we are updating our previous guidance.

Our advice, therefore, is for all Catholic Chaplaincy coordinators to ensure that they are in constant liaison with Hospital and Trust authorities, so that these bodies are aware of the availability of priests. They should ensure that contact details of chaplains and priests are available for telephone support of those who need it. **Priests and chaplains must follow the visiting instructions from Hospital and Trust authorities.**

Whilst this runs counter to our instinct to provide personal end-of-life sacramental and pastoral care, in the current circumstances minimising the spread of the virus must be the priority of all.

Bishop Paul Mason  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2020