

Wednesday 15th September 2021



Dear Parishioners,

Yesterday was the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, and I write today on the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows.

I'm writing to encourage you in your faith and I hope to write a reflection for you each week now.

Firstly, I'm sorry it has taken me so long to write. I must admit I was a bit caught out by this second lockdown and how long it has gone for.

Perhaps like me, this lockdown has affected you more than the others. Even the strongest amongst us can be struggling in this time, so please know that you are not alone. Indeed, you are never alone! God is our refuge and our strength! (Ps 46:1)

God is with always with us. This is the beautiful meaning of these two feast days. God loves each of us so much that He happily went through the agony of the cross. He is always with us in every difficulty and suffering. And so we exalt (raise from on high) the cross! And our loving Mother does not lounge about in heaven indifferently, but rather Her heart is sorrowful as she shares the sorrows of her children.

Our Lord said, "when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself." (Jn 12:32) I pray that you will be drawn to Him by experiencing the love He has for you. As Jeremiah says so beautifully, "You have seduced me, and I have let myself be seduced." (Jer 20:7) May the cross draw us into Christ.

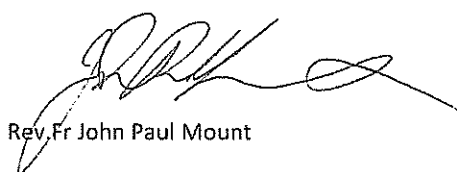
From the cross, Our Lord said to Mary and St John, "Woman, behold your son." (Jn 19:26) Whereby he made us all children of Mary. And She has embraced the gift of being our mother. I pray that you will experience the presence of our Mother Mary in these days when we are deprived of the Sacraments.

Please know that I am praying for you every day. I am remembering you all in my daily Mass.

Next week we have the feast days of St Matthew the Apostle and St Padre Pio (one of my favourites!)

Until next week,

God bless,



Rev. Fr John Paul Mount