

# **Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George** *with Our Lady of Walsingham & the English Martyrs*

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**Dear Friends,**

**Easter 2020**

This year, for the first time ever, Easter was celebrated in an empty church as it was in many churches around the world. Of course, we all hope that this strange phenomenon is only temporary and once the coronavirus crisis is over, we will be able to gather in churches again and to do things the way we did before. When? Unfortunately, we still do not know. This is not easy, but we are assured that it is necessary.

In these challenging circumstances we, as priests, really miss your visible presence. You give us the encouragement and, often, the inspiration to go on. We know, as you do, the infinite value of the Mass itself. We cling to the knowledge that at every Mass the angels and saints are with us. By celebrating Mass we make real the great prayer of Jesus and we become part of his constant pleading for the world before the Father. How much we need that prayer right now!

As we continue our Easter journey, I really want to thank everyone who was able to partake in the Spiritual Communion through the live streamed celebration of the Holy Week and the daily Mass. We have received amazing feedback on how much this is appreciated by you. So many have expressed gratitude for the consolation and encouragement they have received and how this is contributing not only to a continuing practice of the faith but also a deepening of some of its important aspects. May God bless you all!

We continue to remember in our prayers the front lines: the nurses and doctors, all medical staff who offer care, the lives shared and the lives lost, those who ensure that our food is prepared and available in shops, those who work to transport people and goods, bring our mail, those who lead our country and those who communicate their message to us, the teachers and parents who support their children, the elderly, the sick and those who stay home to care for them, the homeless and refugees, the priests and all who bring a word of comfort at this time. Let's pray for each other, that when all this is over, we may enjoy each other even more and in a deeper way, recognising the value of everyday things and of every person.

Let us embrace this time as a challenge to seek Christ anew. Let us seek Him boldly and tenaciously. Let us recognise Him by His wounds, by His voice when He speaks to us intimately, and by the Spirit that brings peace and banishes fear.

Let Easter get into us. Let Easter come and live where we live. Let Easter permeate our souls and fill them with the light and the hope of the Risen Christ.

**Fr Sławomir Witoń**