



Y R E G L W Y S THE CHURCH
Y N G N G H Y M R U I N W A L E S



ARCHBISHOP OF WALES and BISHOP OF SWANSEA AND BRECON.
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN D E DAVIES
ARCHESGOB CYMRU ac ESGOB ABERTAWE AC ABERHONDDU.
Y PARCHEDICAF JOHN D E DAVIES

Wednesday of Holy Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Much of Lent, all of Holy Week and a significant part of the Easter season have been and will be unlike any most of us have ever known. Lockdown is the new normal - a very abnormal normal. Nevertheless, despite many restrictions, the life of faith, in very different ways, has continued. I have been hugely impressed by efforts made to provide both a variety of broadcast services and other reflective material. Services have been watched by thousands each day, far more than attend regularly, and it is obvious from many comments, that the Gospel message of love and light which lies at their heart has done much to reassure, especially the vulnerable, at a time of anxiety and darkness. I trust that you recognise these efforts for what they are – evangelism and outreach, not simply keeping a show on the road. Such imaginative efforts to communicate with new constituencies show that they are welcomed and valued. May these efforts continue into the future. I place on record my personal thanks for all that has been and will continue to be done.

In addition to all of the above, there has emerged and there continues to grow, in our localities, a tangible and renewed sense of community, a new desire to support others. The fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit which Jesus promised his anxious disciples would encourage them and bring to their minds all that he had taught them, is evident. The Gospel is being lived afresh. I fervently hope that all that we have seen emerging and growing will form part of a new normal when the crisis has passed – for pass it will – for there will remain many for whom ongoing love and support will remain precious commodities, bringing them a kind of ongoing personal resurrection.

I wish all of you well in all that you are doing; I hold in prayer you, your families, your communities and their people, not least those who are suffering profound sickness, stress or sorrow; and with you, I continue to give thanks for the kindness shown and work faithfully carried out by so many in so many different ways.

God's blessing be upon you, and love from the Risen Christ strengthen you.

+ John Swansea & Brecon