

Dear Friends,

This is just a short Summer briefing on the Feast of the Transfiguration which is being sent in large part because of continuing questions from Parishes over the use of the Common Cup. We therefore include a letter from Bishop Julian below.

This question highlights the challenges of making complex decisions locally. Our sense though is that parishes are working with immense sensitivity and intelligence in easing restrictions out generally, ensuring that they carry the goodwill of their people with them. Thank you for this.

### **A Letter from Bishop Julian on the Common Cup**

*Dear Friends,*

*Some have raised questions about the common cup at Holy Communion, now that previous restrictions have been lifted.*

*Yes, it is down to local decision at the end of the day, where an incumbent and PCC will decide how to respond in their situation. There is still considerable anxiety in the current circumstances about a common cup and the following authorised options are ways forward:*

- 1. The practice of communion in one kind, with only the Priest drinking from the cup.*
- 2. The Priest intincts the wafer before administration. I'm not sure this is either a safe or good practice.*
- 3. A common cup is made available for those who wish to drink from it, at a separate station with another person, who has sanitised their hands before handling the cup, administering.*

*The House of Bishops is not of one mind on the matter of the common or individual cups and will be discussing this further at their meeting in October.*

*My advice at this stage is to talk this through at local PCC/leadership level, see where the consensus lies, and then do what it is believed God is leading you to do. Inevitably, with strong differences of view about all this, there will be a variety of practice on the ground. Whatever that turns out to be, we eat broken bread and drink poured out wine in solemn remembrance of Jesus' death and passion, until He comes again, and we do so decently and with respect.*

*With my prayers and thanks for your continued service during these still difficult times,  
As ever,*

*+Julian Blackburn*

If you need help or advice as a result of this letter, please send us an email or contact your Archdeacon or Area Dean.

## **Supporting Health and Social Care Professionals**

A number of our healthcare chaplains have pointed out that, whilst the media has moved on, the pressure on NHS staff and others in the caring professions is still relentless. This pressure is across the whole health and social care system, and as many of you will know, there are particular challenges to mental health services. All this takes its toll on staff wellbeing.

Our Chaplains therefore hope that:

- Clergy and local churches will do all they can to continue to support NHS and care staff in their congregations
- We will pray regularly for acute trusts, GP surgeries. Mental health services and social care both for the elderly and for those with complex needs.
- We will pray for junior doctors and others who started new roles during the first week of August.

## **Online Worship this Sunday**

An Act of Worship from Blackburn Cathedral will be available every Sunday from 9am. You can view this on the [Cathedral YouTube Channel](#) or on [Facebook](#).

## **Coronavirus Email Address**

If you have questions or problems and can't find answers on the [advice compendium](#) please email: [coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org).

## ***The Collect for the Feast of the Transfiguration***

Father in heaven,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem:  
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Regards  
Coronavirus Task Group