



# DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

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**Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle**

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## **Pastoral Letter of Bishop Robert Byrne CO** **for distribution in Holy Week 2020**

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I want to say a special word to those who are preparing to be **baptised** or received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at the Rite of Election on the 1st Sunday of Lent. I witnessed then the excitement and enthusiasm that you had at taking this great step in your journey of faith. I am sorry that you are unable to continue this journey as you planned. I assure you that your baptism or reception will take place as soon as possible. In the meantime, please see the delay as an opportunity to deepen your love and trust in the Lord. His grace continues to work in our lives whatever the circumstances.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who are doing so much to support our local communities and parishes. I want to thank especially our NHS staff and all those who have care of the sick. You are doing a splendid job and we are all deeply grateful to you. Thanks also to our headteachers and staff of the numerous schools that have remained open - your work is an invaluable support to parents working in the NHS

I ask you all to remember the injunction of the Lord to love our neighbour, which has not been suspended! Please have a special care for those who are elderly or vulnerable and be ready to give them a helping hand.

Although we are more physically separated at this time yet we are united through our faith and in the prayers of Our Lady and the saints. Let us find our hope in Christ who is with us in all the trials of our life.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO  
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle