

Due to the shutdown, and the lack of Weekly Offerings we are in a very precarious financial position.

I am not being alarmist: we are really short of money to pay our way. As well as the giving of our regular parishioners, St Mary's has always had a considerable financial boost from the generosity of visitors in the collections and in the boxes. This source of income has dried up completely.

I will be sending out a Finance Letter within the next few weeks hoping that people will respond to mitigate the dire effects of our loss of income. Some of us contribute by Standing Orders, or Direct Debits, and these can be Gift Aided if it is appropriate. This part of our income is, at the moment, our only reliable source of funds.

Some of you have very kindly increased your giving, others have made efforts to get the weekly envelope or 'collection money' to the Church. This is all appreciated, as are the donations that have been made. Thank you. I am sincerely appreciative of those who have sensed our difficulties and have come forward to help.

We cannot continue to live like this. We need to raise more funds as we have still to meet utility bills, pay Diocesan levies, and ensure that the Church buildings are kept safe and in good repair. Our Invested Funds have taken more than a 16% drop. This will diminish our six monthly dividends, on which we have relied to break even.

I will be writing in the next week or so with greater detail, and perhaps spreading my Appeal more widely. I will consult with members of the Finance Committee.

In the meantime please pray for those of us, who through the Parish Office, are trying to keep things going, the ever reliable Carol, PJ, and Fr Dominic.

It is marvellous that St Mary's is such a supportive Parish, and I am grateful for everyone's kindness and willingness. Now I am asking you please to do what you can, if you can, to help us financially.

Aye

Fr James