

Covid-19 Experience

Bolton Abbey

The covid pandemic and resulting lockdown has had a profound effect on our community of Bolton Abbey.

On one side: it deprived us of those who daily shared our liturgical offices and eucharist. It also deprived us of the presence of guests as all visitation to the monastery was curtailed. Community excursion, except for those that were absolutely necessary, were eliminated.

On the other side: The covid pandemic has allowed us to experience a vulnerability which does often enter our lives but is a daily experience of so many people throughout the world. As a consequence of this, the community entered into a deeper level of silence and solitude. There was also a greater experience of solidarity within the community itself since we were on our own totally both liturgically and communally. We found ourselves in an even more privileged position of presence to the sacraments and shared prayer.

The closure of most churches with the inability of our friends and visitors to gather anywhere in prayer; made us as a community more responsible for holding them in our prayer. Our prayer became much more universal since we truly prayed not only for ourselves but for so very many others as well.

The experience of the pandemic continues to unfold for us.