

Some remarks on living through the Covid-19 lockdown

There has been a great deal of simplification of our lifestyle in response to the Covid-19. This resulted in a greater sense of solitude and even of more silence within the community.

Because of the need for distance between each other, the chapter meetings were stopped completely in the earlier months. The Divine Office was not affected because there was more room in the Church for the required spacing.

The abbey was closed to the general public from the beginning for worship, for visitors and guests. This has continued as we could not easily maintain the recommended safety restrictions.

The liturgy of Holy Week added to this streamlining of our lives and a greater simplicity to. It was a new experience for us but, while it was in some ways more personal, the lack of our normal congregation left us with a sense of loss. We missed the feeling of being one with the local church. At the same time we feel fortunate to have our daily Mass when most of the Church have been deprived of it through many months. We feel for the many who still are unable to get to Mass.

One aspect of the lockdown mentioned by our infirmarian was that, fortunately, no one in the community has suffered from the COVID-19 to date, nor has anyone been required to self-isolate as a result of contact with anyone outside who may have the virus.