



St James the Less Presbytery
Burnley Road
Rawtenstall
BB4 8HH

28th March 2020

Dear Parishioner

Donation by Standing Order

In view of the coronavirus restrictions and the closure of public buildings those churches which are funded mainly by donations at Mass are experiencing a serious drop in income whilst many of the day to day bills remain to be paid. Such is the case here at St James the Less where the vast majority of parishioners still donate by envelope or as loose plate cash. One way in which this shortfall could be minimised is if those parishioners who are able replace weekly Mass donation by standing order. This is simple and secure and many parishes have already opted to encourage this method of giving even before the coronavirus outbreak.

Offertory collections developed in the days when people were paid weekly in notes and coins. These days most people's income comes through bank accounts, including pensions and social security benefits. For many people, it is easier to give by bank standing order, as it saves finding the right change each week. It also helps people gradually to increase their regular giving from year to year in line with inflation, without everyone having to find odd amounts of cash every week.

If you would like to set up a standing order then you can do so by printing and completing the attached form and sending it to your bank (**not to the parish**). Alternatively if you use internet banking and are comfortable with doing so then the information on the form contains all you need to set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

Please consider this proposal, we don't know how long the present restrictions will remain in force and a long period on severely reduced income will drastically affect the parish finances.

Canon Tony McBride
Parish Priest

David Pilling
Gift Aid Organiser

Since this letter was posted a number of recipients have processed standing orders without problem, others have received the message that the name 'St. James the Less, Rawtenstall' doesn't match the account number. On the contrary, the combination of 'St. James the Less, Rawtenstall' with A/c No. 80005614 is the one which has been in use for several years and is still the one recognised by the bank. I made a standing order request using the same combination on Monday 30th March and again today Wednesday 1st April. I can only suspect that the system is being overloaded by people working from home. No one is available at the banks to respond to this. If you encounter this problem we suggest you try again later (in the evening) and, if you still can't complete the standing order request then print out the form and post it to your own bank. *D.P.*

Bank Name:

202

Address:

Standing Order

Please make the payments detailed below and debit our account

Account

Name of Account to be debited _____

A/c No: _____

Address _____

Sort Code: _____

Date: _____

Name of Payee:

St. James the Less, Rawtenstall

A/c No: 80005614

**Bank to which
payment is to be made.**

Barclays Bank

Sort Code: 20-55-34

Amount (in words)

£ _____

Date of payments _____

Date of first payment _____

Special instructions (if any) _____

*Payments are to continue until _____
(date of last payment inclusive)

*Payments are to continue until you receive further notice in writing

**THIS INSTRUCTION CANCELS ANY PREVIOUS ORDER IN FAVOUR OF THE PAYEE
NAMED ABOVE**

Signature _____

*Delete as applicable