



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Examples of Hospital Chaplaincy Good Practice

I have been in touch with the Bishops' Healthcare Advisors as well as other chaplains I know and below are the types of support chaplains are currently providing. Hospital policies do vary a lot; a few do give access to Covid patients, but many do not. By all accounts the *Nightingale Hospitals* will give chaplaincy access to patients. Chaplains working alongside the particular Healthcare Trust to find effective alternatives is important. As such, I hope this list helps in this regard:

1. Use of telephone and video conferencing is by far the most common
2. Giving patients free wi-fi access and a tablet – some Trusts will supply these through the chaplaincy department
3. Posting prayer services or Mass on Youtube
4. Leaving prayer cards / booklets / sheets indicating the times the chaplain will praying those same prayers in the chapel
5. Using internal email system which patients can access at the bedside
6. Making available prayers of commendation and prayers for the dead that anyone could read if there is no access to a chaplain
7. Pages on the hospital intranet with prayers and devotional images
8. 24/7 dedicated Covid helpline. There is 24/7 cover anyway, but this reminds everyone of availability
9. Live streaming of Mass, either from the hospital chapel or some or location. This can be arranged by the local Catholic chaplain either on site or at a local parish.
10. One hospital has a Wellbeing Hub for multi-disciplinary team meetings and referrals. The chaplain ensures he is a part of this and from it he receives referrals to meet family or staff in designated safe areas
11. Hospital radio is being used for a 'thought-for-the-day' slot
12. Chaplains making known that they meet at a particular time each day, light a candle and pray for patients. They have a book and invite people to add names so they can be prayed for personally

Chaplains are giving assurances of the validity of Spiritual Communion and practising this widely, while the Vatican document of 20th March referring to the Catechism (CCC 1452) has been a helpful reminder with regard to Confession (ie the use of the Act of Perfect Contrition). Most indicate that the majority of their work seems to be with staff who are particularly appreciative of the care the chaplains continue to provide. Such contact is also the route through which opportunities for further support arise.

Bishop Paul Mason

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