

**Important Notice: Fr Simon has been advised to Shield until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care wrote to Fr Simon and advised him that he has been placed on the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable List and advises him to “shield” until 31<sup>st</sup> March. The letter was received on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

This follows a review of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in which they have updated the risk and warnings to various people with underlying health conditions. This means that he will be unavailable for in-person pastoral engagements, including the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments until 1<sup>st</sup> April (providing that the shielding period is not extended further).

Although not wishing to discuss personal health matters, Fr Simon has had his first dose of the vaccine but is still advised to shield until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

As all pastoral engagements will now be fulfilled by Fr Rajesh alone, there will need to be an adjustment to public liturgies, and this weekend’s newsletter published on Friday will update you. Please note that the bishop has been informed.