



THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

Dear Faithful of Our Lady of Walsingham,

My prayers over these past days have been for each of you going through this devastating natural disaster. On Sunday I canceled my scheduled trip to Sydney, Australia where I was to give a presentation on Ordinariate Church Growth to the pastors of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Lindsay and I made it back to the Woodlands where we were stopped by the over-flowing waters of Cypress Spring. After linking up with Deacon Stockstill and Susan who had evacuated on Saturday night, we were able to find a way in and arrived at Walsingham yesterday. Thank you for your prayers and sharing concerns as I endeavored to be with my flock during our time of great need.

The church property has sustained over 40 inches of rain with floodwaters reaching over 24 inches on early Sunday morning in the street. Despite this we only have some water that soaked the carpet on the North side of St. Jude Hall. Otherwise, our facilities are fully operational. With so much devastation around, we have to look at this as an opportunity to serve.

First and foremost, I am requesting that anyone who has been evacuated from their homes to contact Deacon Mark Stockstill at business@olwcatholic.org. Please give us an update on where you are and how we can best help you in your situation. If you are in a shelter, I will personally work with the staff and other parishioners of the Cathedral to find you temporary housing. Please do know we are here with you through this time of need.

Secondly, the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, our direct neighbor to the West, has been designated by the city of Houston as a temporary shelter. A member of the City Council has requested the use of Newman Hall for overflow space for a limited number of families, as well as parking for volunteers. I have asked Sr. Thomas Aquinas to coordinate efforts with the Community Center as we strive to fulfill this request of need. As we understand this more fully, we will let you know of opportunities to serve.

Finally, all of the clergy and staff who serve Our Lady of Walsingham are safe and have faired the storm. I have asked that my own father and Fr. Davids remain in the communities where they reside through the weekend. The local diocesan parishes in Katy and Spring are in overwhelming need. Fr. Perkins and I will celebrate all Masses beginning today according to the normal schedule. However, the offices will remain closed and the parish activities will be in recess through this week. Our Dominican Sisters are also well. They're still processing their welcome by Hurricane Harvey into Houston! On a more serious note, please do not put yourself or your family in harms way to come to Church.

We will continue to update the parish website (olwcatholic.org) and Facebook page.

Please do know of my continued prayers. I look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with each of you as we begin the recovery process.

I remain,

Faithfully in Christ through Mary,

Very Rev. Charles A. Hough IV