

Five ways of sustaining faith in difficult times - community

I think it would be true to say that for Jesus the two great commandments are inseparable. Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. We are called not just as individuals but as community. There is no room in Christianity for going it alone.

The Gospel invites us to recognise our need of the other, to know that real life comes from community. It's about 'us' rather than 'me'. We don't walk the journey alone. It seems to me that the desire for community has been planted in our hearts by God and that it reflects the reality of who God is, a God who is one, a God who is in perfect relationship.

So, what about our parish communities in these difficult times when we can't gather together? Are we no longer Church because we can't celebrate the sacraments in our normal ways? Of course not, we are Church. We are community. We are one. Maybe these difficult times will help us recognise the gift of one another.

- **Take time each day to pray for your community.**
- **Contact people by phone, text, email just to say 'hello'.**
- **Gather people on your computer if you can, and have a time of prayer.**
- **If you are able, call into the church when it's open and spend time in prayer.**