

Activities during the Covid -19 Pandemic For England and wales

The pandemic had a lot of challenges for nurses especially those on the front line. This had a great impact on the activities of the Association as a whole. We have had to cancel all face to face activities and meetings and have resorted to online meetings. Communications are via email or whatsapp or phone or Facebook Messenger, which have kept us connected as we have kept checking on each other and has provided support for those who needed it.

This was an important year in the history of nurses, we had planned to have Mass to commemorate and celebrate the 200years of Florence Nightingale, but we could not effectively do so as we were in the forefront fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. Public worship was not allowed during Lockdown and remains restricted around numbers, use of masks and yellow taped marked social distancing spaces within Churches. Also our National Chaplain was incapacitated by catching Coronavirus and spending many weeks in Intensive Care and now is in a long slow recovery.

The Association of Catholic Nurses England and Wales, was chosen to participate in a video-conference in May 2020, to discuss about the effects of Covid-19 in our region. This was moderated by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development -Vatican Covid-19 Commission..

Our Secretary has done a great job by sending timely updates on Covid-19 from the Bishops Conference and the Department of Health to members by email and some information around Covid is added on the Association Website. We have also provided links to Vatican resources on this.

We were asked as an Association to give a talk to one of our local Secondary school students on their Founder Day Event about the history and works of our Associations and a presentation was produced for this.

We are in the second wave of Covid-19 and it is predicted to be worse than the first, so as an Association, we have planned to continue our meetings, retreats and annual Mass by Microsoft Teams or Zoom. All members are still receiving Journals by post but can also access them online

It is hard to find the right words to express my gratitude for what the nurses have done in these unprecedented times.

We continue keeping safe and it is our hope the vaccine will bring the pandemic to an end.

Janet Muchengwa
National president
England and wales.