

Reflection, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

I write this reflection having now been able to attend Mass a couple of times. It was a joy to experience the words of the Mass, and holy communion, in person for the first time in months. You don't fully appreciate what you've got until you don't have it. This experience draws me today to think about those who cannot practice their faith because of persecution or because it is in some way unsafe to do so – Catholics in China, some parts of the Middle East, as well as elsewhere. There are also those parts of our own country where there is no priest to say regular Mass, such as the Scilly Isles.

Let us pray for these communities, wherever they are and whatever their situation. In the times of darkness when they may feel abandoned, Lord, speak to them and give them comfort knowing that you are there and see all that is done, even in secret.

Edd Hogan