

Pentecost Sunday

Greetings brothers and sisters on this Pentecost Sunday.

As we sing in one of our hymns ***This is the day when the Spirit came.***

Again we suffer at being separated and unable to gather together as God's holy people. But it is important not to lose heart. If you remember on the first Pentecost the Apostles themselves, gathered in the upper room with Mary, Jesus mother, were also worried and fearful but the Holy Spirit penetrated not only the locked doors but also their fearful hearts and emboldened them to unlock the doors and deliver their message of Good News very publicly and with great energy. So each one of us must remember the Spirit can enter our hearts too if we but welcome him and let him in. Please do your best to be prayerful and joyful on this special feast, and implore the holy Spirit to stir in your heart up the gifts of ***Peace, Joy and Hope.***

We received two lovely home-made cards through the post from two children in the Reception Class, *Happy Birthday to the Church* – thank you so much.

There is no definite news yet as to when or how the churches will re-open again. Perhaps private prayer will come first. When we receive the go ahead for Mass there will still be restrictions; no hymn books, Communion in the hand only, no receiving from the chalice, and some form of spacing in the benches. There is also a suggestion that we might have to clean the church between Masses. Presumably this will mean spraying the benches in some way. We may well be calling on some help to make this happen according to the approved rules.

Just a word on finances. Those who are on standing orders are continuing to pay and we are most appreciative of your generosity and faithfulness.

We have made some savings, Monica and AJ are on furlough. Heat and light are at a minimum and we are not paying for flowers or organists.

Some people have dropped donations or envelopes in the letter box and that too is very much appreciated. If you want to do that notes or cheques are best. Its not necessary to put the money in each envelope but put the envelope in to indicate which weeks they correspond to. This will be important later on in applying for Gift Aid.

The school hopes to begin opening on the 8 June.

Keep well,
Keep safe
And be filled with God's Spirit this Pentecost

Fr Chris and the Servite Community