

# OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER AND ST THOMAS MORE

LETTER TO PARISHIONERS

Sunday, 31st May 2020

**Pentecost:** We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, described in chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles. This is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. Today, we are that community of believers. The disciples were gathered, hidden away, fearful, uncertain as to what was going to happen next. Then the Holy Spirit works in them, on them and through them. They go out, they preach, and miracles take place. Pope Francis often encourages today's Catholics to be open to the gift of boldness that marked the early Christian community. So, as we emerge from lockdown, let us pray we may be open to receive the Holy Spirit and, no longer timorous, emerge to take up our place in society.

**Re-opening:** At present we have no date for when our church will re-open. When we do, the details will be placed on the parish website, [holyredeemerchelsea.com](http://holyredeemerchelsea.com), under "Newsletters". It is likely that for an initial period the church will be open only for personal individual prayer. Also, there is talk of Marriages being allowed with a very small congregation. However it could be some weeks before parishioners can attend Mass. In the meantime we are preparing by purchasing necessary items such as sanitiser, and planning how and where the congregation will take their places in church. I will be asking for volunteers to help us enable the celebration of Mass in a way which is respectful, not only of God, but also of the vulnerability of his creation.

**Magnificat:** Copies of the June issue of "Magnificat" are available. Please phone (020 7352 0777) or email ([chelsea2@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:chelsea2@rcdow.org.uk)) with your address if you would like a copy. Payment can be made when things are back to normal.

**Be safe! Be alert!** Just because you see people wandering around looking very relaxed, please don't give up on taking the precautions recommended by the government. People are still falling ill due to Covid 19, and some are dying.

**Recently deceased:** Please remember in your prayers Elizabeth Macdonald--Buchanan and William Brennan who died recently, as well as their families and those who mourn them.

Please keep praying for everyone affected by the coronavirus, directly or indirectly.

Canon Paschal Ryan

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**On a lighter note:** On Sunday, little Timmy was very restless at Mass, and his mother had a lot of trouble trying to keep him still. However, the boy was intrigued by the red sanctuary lamp. After a while, he piped up as he clutched his mother's hand: "Mummy, Mummy, when the light changes to green, can we go?" On Monday, Timmy was at school and he was learning about his faith, but rather puzzled. "Miss, Miss, I can understand about Christ, but not about the roses. Please Miss, why was Christ a rose?"