

Pastoral Letter 10

Dear Friends

Over the past weeks many of us have had to learn the lesson of staying at home and living life much more simply than before. We have just experienced the second school holiday during lockdown when many of us had planned to be away (for me a school trip to Berlin) - but alas, have been prevented due to the pandemic regulations. This has been disappointing for us all since travelling, seeing new things, meeting new people are all very enticing.

Recently the Christian Church has been contemplating the Ascension of Jesus and the command of the Lord that the disciples were to go back to the city of Jerusalem; back to that locked down room where they had been hiding after Jesus' death and Resurrection; to wait for the right moment until they were clothed from on high with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are not informed as to how the disciples received the news about continuing in lockdown - perhaps they were relieved since they were fearful. But it is in last Sunday's festival of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) that the disciples were there in that room and by the power of the Holy Spirit sent to a waiting, expectant world.

Whilst in lockdown many of us have learned new things - not least how to steer through the challenge of Microsoft teams as a vehicle for teaching, learning and communication. Many will have taken on new interests and hobbies; some will have engaged in cooking from scratch whilst others will have made a concerted effort to be in touch with friends and family with whom we have had little contact recently. It's certainly not been a waste of time.

Many people will have discovered the importance of a pattern of prayer providing structure to the day and a support to face so many difficulties. Each day many of us recite the prayer which Jesus taught - The Lord's Prayer - repeating those significant words, 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

The release from lockdown is already beginning as we prepare to resume 'normal' life. But whilst we wait and pray we might begin to ponder what kind of world we should be re-entering; what kind of place do we want the world to be? What do we want to be different when we finally get out of lockdown and how will it mirror more closely the Kingdom for which we pray.

I'll leave you with a video link which provides some moving reflections:

<https://youtu.be/Nw5KQMXDiM4>

With my blessing and prayers

Father Andrew Hutchinson