

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost.

After the Resurrection the Apostles were still doubtful, even though the Risen Christ had appeared to them for forty days. It was not enough for them to have met Christ Risen in person, they were still fearful and had doubts.

We are in the same situation. We are still in lockdown, we are socially distanced, life as we knew it has ground to a halt. The confusion we experience is described in the first reading of the Vigil Mass of Pentecost – when the people had turned away from the East and became, literally, “disoriented”, they no longer understood one another, there was mass confusion.

This is the experience of Babel – confusion, doubt, fear, panic.

Pentecost is the antidote to this virus. The Holy Spirit, who descended upon the apostles, confirmed in their hearts the love of God, and allowed them to speak a language that all could understand. This language is Love. The gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the capacity to love, and love conquers all fear, doubt, panic, worry and confusion. Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of thy Faithful, enkindle in Us the Fire of Thy Love.

Monday June 1st is the memorial of the Virgin Mary under the title ‘Mother of the Church’, Beata Mariæ Virginis, Ecclesiæ Matris, instituting this memorial, Pope Francis last year wrote:

*‘As a caring guide to the emerging Church Mary had already begun her mission in the Upper Room, praying with the Apostles while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14). In this sense, in the course of the centuries, Christian piety has honored Mary with various titles, in many ways equivalent, such as Mother of Disciples, of the Faithful, of Believers, of all those who are reborn in Christ; and also as “Mother of the Church” as is used in the texts of spiritual authors as well as in the Magisterium of Popes Benedict XIV and Leo XIII.*

Join us for the live-streamed Pentecost Mass, and join us for the Memorial on Monday. Mary, Mother of the church, Pray for Us.

Fr. Sean