

Dear friends,

Today is the feast of Pentecost in the church's calendar and I have uploaded a short (six minute) reflection on this the church's birthday. If you'd like to give it a go, get yourself a coffee, settle down and I'll begin..... <https://youtu.be/q-4kUkXiVBg>

Also, as usual I have uploaded this to my Blog to read if you wish. Just click here to access that. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2020/05/pentecost.html>

The church of England is screening a special Pentecost service at 9am this morning with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and featuring a message from His Holiness Pope

Francis. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Hopefully my computer woes are behind me so just to re-iterate, my email address for church business in future is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk and my revmartinjacques@gmail.com account will be my personal account. Both are synched together at the moment so whatever happens I should see it. I tend to live in a fog of technical confusion but I am gradually working things out!

Louise's birthday started on Thursday evening drinking champagne in a friend's hot tub – all socially distanced naturally – and carried on through Friday ending in a favourite dinner – and more champagne. Thank you to everyone who sent cards or emails or left gifts on our doorstep – very much appreciated. I remember my own 50th at a wonderful party in Gainford vicarage in 2012 (Hi Guys) but these are different times indeed. We'll have the party next year!

Apropos nothing at all - I've lost over a stone in weight since returning from Rome in November last year – I just like telling people!!

A Poem called "Prayer" by Carol Ann Duffy

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer
utters itself. So, a woman will lift
her head from the sieve of her hands and stare
at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth
enters our hearts, that small familiar pain;
then a man will stand stock-still, hearing his youth
in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade 1 piano scales

console the lodger looking out across
a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls
a child's name as though they named their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer -
Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.

Musical interlude!

Come down O Love Divine is one of my favourite hymns and ideal for
Pentecost. This is a lockdown version from a church called St. Luke's. Nothing
fancy – four singers and a pianist – I responded to its simplicity and honesty.
This is the church. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cOGrXjrQXY>

The Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,

ignite in us your holy fire;

strengthen your children with the gift of faith,

revive your Church with the breath of love,

and renew the face of the earth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Love and peace,

Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk