



13th May 2020

Dear Friends,

We are now over 60 days into our Cloistering and have had nine Sunday Services online ... **what of the future?** Last Friday the Council met and I want to share their conclusions with you.

There are some key things that we will not forget. We will not take unnecessary risks. I will not rush it. We will follow the guidance of the Diocese in Europe and our Government here. We will also pay attention to the guidance being given by the Roman Catholic Bishops. **This is important for the well-being of those who attend services and for the honour of Christ's name.**

The official Spanish Government position is that Religious sites such as churches will be able to open in phase 1 of the reopening process, with a limit of 30% of their capacity. We do not know when Phase 1 will begin for Barcelona City. We had been anticipating that Phase 0 would be extended.

I recommended, and we unanimously agreed, that we should prepare for how we would run two or three services for **Pentecost Sunday, 31st May**, including possibly one on the Saturday evening. However, in reality I think it is likely that we will not be able to begin until mid-June.

The virtual services will be continued for the foreseeable future. I prefer YouTube to live-streaming as it is more flexible in that we can include or exclude hymns etc and people are able to watch when it suits them. The response to these services has been really encouraging. **Pray with us** about what this may mean long-term and about live-streaming.

I am forming four teams to manage the process of reopening. These are:

A Ministry Team: Chaplains, Music, Sunday School, Youth and Church Wardens

A Pastoral Team: Chaplain, Group Leaders and Council members

An Implementation Team: Chaplains, Church Wardens and Josephine

A Finance Team: Our Treasurer with the Chaplain, Standing Committee and those who handle finance.

Important information:

✦ We can only have one third of our capacity inside, which is about 25 people and outside - at social distancing levels. Families who live together can be together. The services would initially only be about 30 - 40 minutes long. If we have three services, two will be in the garden and one in the church.

✦ There will be Holy Communion, but bread only, at each service

✦ There will be no singing, no refreshments, toilets will not be open and masks must be worn

✦ We will need a deep clean before our first service and then cleaning between services. This is not required in the Garden, as long as people remain at appropriate social distancing and do not use church seats.

✦ The possibility of a service on a Saturday evening, as a temporary measure, will be investigated.

✦ The Ministry Team will work out how best to handle the reopening; we will let you know details.

✦ The Implementation Team will manage how people come; you may have to book to attend.

Finance is important. The reserves of St George's are not what they should be and need to be built up. We are losing each weekly offering at present. This is serious. There is a marvellous verse in Nehemiah 4:9 which says, 'we prayed to the Lord and posted a guard!' That is what we must do. Hopefully we will have the possibility of online giving by DonorBox in the near future. Do ask the Lord about how he would have you respond to this need.

If you have any questions, please do contact me.

In Christ our Lord

John