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MAY 2020

I wonder how you are all coping with having to stay at home at the moment. I hope you are able to get a short walk outside, and perhaps have a garden or park to be in when the sun is shining. Look at the words in the title at the top of the page. It's an old saying that a time of discomfort, such as rainy weather (or our present time of lockdown), will be brightened up by the flowers that were watered by the rain. It's saying that better times will come.

Flowers are the jewels that God has given us, and also the herbs and other plants with their scents and usefulness in cooking. If you don't have a garden, perhaps you could see what scents some herbs in the kitchen cupboard have. Do you know of how they might be used in a recipe? There might be a chance to do a little cooking together.

Once, when Jesus was trying to show how much God cares for us, he spoke about how God cares for the birds of the air and said "look at the lilies in the field, they sow not neither do they reap and yet even king Solomon in all his glory was never dressed like one of these." (Matt 6:28) God makes them glorious. He cares for us his people.

Here are some FLOWER CRAFTS that you could make to remind you of God's gifts.



A simple one to begin. Use a paper plate or draw round a plate onto white paper or card. Fold in half and cut out triangular shapes around the rim then open out. Tear or cut coloured tissue paper into small pieces that are then scrunched up into balls to be stuck all over the flower base, either randomly or in a pattern (see the second picture). When covered all over a hole could be made in the tip of one petal so that a cord or ribbon could be threaded through so that the flower can be hung up to decorate a room.



Or you could cut out some wavy edged circles and use finger paints or thick felt tips to make a pattern. Then cut a smaller circle for the centre and some green paper or card for the stems.



For something a little more challenging try these flowers made from strips of paper.



First make a base from card or stiff paper (draw round a cup perhaps). Using a sheet of A4 paper cut out strips across the narrow side, about 2cm wide. Put glue onto the base card and lay one end of each strip to radiate outwards from the centre. Then fold each strip into the centre and glue them down. Cut a smaller circle in a contrasting colour and stick that into the centre of the strips – see illustration. Then you could make stalks out of straws if you want them to stand up, or pipe cleaners or paper to be stuck onto a backing. Make multicoloured flowers using different coloured strips for each flower head.



The Church Celebrates its' Birthday!

Did you know that the Church has a birthday? This year it will be held on Sunday May 31st. It is called Pentecost Sunday and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Originally, it was a very important Jewish holiday, held 50 days after Passover, and many Jewish people made their way to Jerusalem from far and wide to praise God for the harvest and to thank Him for the Law of Moses (the 10 Commandments).

When the day of Pentecost came all Jesus' friends were gathered together, waiting for the promised help that Jesus said he would send to them. They were still very uncertain of how they were going to be able to carry out his mission of taking the word of God's love to all people. As followers of Jesus who had been condemned to death, it was still dangerous for them.

Then: "Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each one of them." (Acts2:2-4) This was the Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus, to fill his followers with the power to continue his work. It was the very beginning of what became the Christian Church.

Pentecost Crafts To simulate the wind make a 'streamer blower'.



Take a cardboard tube and paint it in red, yellow and orange stripes to represent flames. Then cut up some tissue paper of the same colours into strips about 25 cm long and 2cm wide. Mix the colours up and stick them around the inside of one end of the tube. You could punch some holes in the other end for the elastic to fit round your head to hold the blower over your mouth or you could just hold it and blow.



Flying Flames. Copy the picture of the flame and cut it out. You will need a straw, plastic if possible but paper will do. Make a strip of paper to roll round the end of the straw and seal with Sellotape in the middle, and at the top. This is the launch cap, similar to a pen lid. It should not be too tight.

Sellotape the launch cap to the back of the flame (open end to the bottom of the flame). Put the straw into the launch cap and blow. The flame should fly into the air.



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Jesus had promised his followers a special helper - the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4

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| AMAZED | LANGUAGES |
| APOSTLES | MULTITUDE |
| DAY OF PENTECOST | SITTING |
| HEAVEN | SPEAKING IN TONGUES |
| HOLY SPIRIT | TONGUES OF FIRE |
| HOUSE | WIND |