



Hello everyone,

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to everyone- all children, staff, parents and governors. This week has seen a huge change in the school life that we are used to, and the children at home have had to adapt to a new way of home learning. The children at home and at school this week have shown resilience, courage, trust, patience and above all shown that they are true St. Mary's children, and we are all very proud of them.



Thank you to our parents for your support with decisions that we have needed to make and for continuing to trust us with your amazing children.

Father Brian has visited us at school twice this week to make sure we are all happy and getting on well. He said some prayers with us, which I truly believe have helped the week to run as smoothly as it has. Thank you Father Brian for all your support.

If your child is staying at home, please continue to work through the home learning provided each week. You are welcome to upload any work that you would like to store on Showbie or Tapestry instead of printing. Please remember that the teachers will not be able to comment on individual pieces of work as before, as they are now back at school.

Please get in touch if you have any queries about how school or home learning is running now. We are always here to help.

Have a lovely weekend.

With very best wishes,

Mrs. Draycott

Head of School

First Holy Communion 2020

I am conscious that a number of our children were due to make their First Holy Communion on Sunday 17th May. I share the disappointment of the children and their families that this was unable to take place because of the current restrictions. Because the children did not complete their preparation and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation it is not expected that First Holy Communion will be celebrated until the Autumn of 2020 at the earliest. I am sorry I cannot give the children and their families precise details but because of the present restrictions it is not possible to do so. I am aware that if stringent rules on social distancing are imposed upon us for the celebration of the Mass in our churches the First Holy Communion celebration would be very challenging. All concerned will have to give much thought to how best we celebrate the First Holy Communion Mass to make sure it is a memorable and wonderful occasion for the children. I will keep you informed when I have more details of how to proceed. I am sorry for all the uncertainty.

Father Brian

Church Bulletin

I know many of you receive the bulletin each week by email but for those who don't you can access it by going to: www.falmouthcatholicchurch/newsletters

Education Library Service—useful links

The following websites may be helpful to parents currently home-schooling.

<https://nursedottybooks.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/dave-the-dog-coronavirus-1-1.pdf>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/>

<https://www.empathylab.uk/family-activities-pack>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/contact-us/childrens-literacy-and-wellbeing-at-home-surveys/>

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/themes/all-activities>

The following website may be helpful if you have a Year 6 pupil returning to the school.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/back-school-activities-help-year-6-classes-hit-ground-running/>

ALSO

Would you like to win a book for your child? Book Trust have 5 copies of **The Magic Bubbles** by **Isabel Otter** to give away. If you are interested, please click on the link below and follow the instructions. The closing date for this is 11am on Thursday 9th July 2020. Good luck!

<https://t.co/dmwQIEjyDy>

Dear Friends

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I went into our parish school on Monday to see how the staff and the children were coping after the easing of some aspects of the lockdown. Of course, only Year 1 and Year 6, plus a few others were able to return. I was so impressed by the great efforts of the staff to create in the school a safe environment for the children. I found the teachers, staff and the children in good spirits. Well done St Mary's.

Many of the children expressed their admiration for my hair-cut and some were amazed when they learnt I had cut it myself. When the lockdown is lifted along with hearing confessions I am thinking of offering haircuts to my parishioners. I was reminded of that song; "Love is in the (h)air".

As well as being a priest I think I am also cut out to be a hairdresser. I think one of my uncles was a barber so hairdressing may well be in my roots.

For those who are having problems with their hair I share this quote that I found : "Let your hair be messy and your life be meaningful".

It seems an age since the doors of our churches were forced to close, not just for public worship but also for private prayer. However, it is hoped that it won't be too long before our churches are open, in the first instance for private prayer.

With this in mind here in Falmouth we have been preparing for this. We have already taped off benches to ensure we keep to the requirements of social distancing. Signs will also be displayed to enable people to come and go safely.

We have calculated that, due to these measures, the church now has a seating capacity of 42.

Obviously, when the celebration of the Mass is allowed a great deal of thought will need to be given to how we accommodate all those who will want to come to Mass.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to act as stewards and cleaners for when the church opens again. If you have not yet put your name forward and if you are fit and able, please consider it.

At first when the lockdown for churches is eased we need to be sensible and cautious in our approach, remembering to do what we can and perhaps not being able to do fully what we desire.


You are all precious to God and precious to me. Your health and wellbeing is essential and nothing must be done to risk the health of our people. So please be patient if the parish does not move at the pace you would like.

However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It will be a great grace and blessing to us all when our churches are open again, even in a limited capacity.

May God keep you safe and well.

With my love and prayers, Father Brian

Take a moment to welcome the Holy Spirit into your heart.
Perhaps you would like to thank Him for being with you with this special prayer:



Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created
And you will renew
the face of the earth.

Why not take some time to copy it out, decorate it and put it somewhere so you can say it every day!

A letter from Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) Water Safety Team.

Dear St Mary's School

This summer, our Lifeguards can't be on every beach, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers. We are asking you to help us share some important messages.

It is anticipated that once restrictions further ease and the summer weather is here, people will head to the beaches and coastline to enjoy the sun, sea and time with friends and family. In a normal year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or close to the water when doing these types of activities.

Throughout the summer term, our local team of trained volunteers and Lifeguards do their best to visit as many of the schools, colleges, and youth groups in our region as possible. However, due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak we have not been able to engage with school communities as we normally would.

Below, you will find out ways in which you can help at this time.

- **[Water Safety from Home resources](#)** - If you're a parent looking for ways to engage, educate and entertain your children at home, play our Water Safety Wednesday series – perfect for primary school-aged children.
- **[Beach Safety Campaign](#)** - Beach lifeguards cannot be everywhere this summer – although we are hoping to patrol around 70 beaches later this year – it is vital every one of us takes responsibility for our own, and our families' safety.

Together, we really can make a lifesaving difference.

Catechetical Camps

In the current circumstances the physical catechetical camps have been cancelled this year. However, the diocese is offering online camps, if you know of any young people who might be interested please see the bulletin for full details: www.falmouthcatholicchurch.org.uk

Please note that signposting to any activities/services within this newsletter, by St Mary's School does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. It is recommended that parents/carers make their own enquiries to satisfy themselves as to the suitability of these. Under no circumstances will either St Mary's School or Plymouth CAST accept any responsibility or liability for any such activity/service.