



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 27: Friday 03 April 2020

<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

**We are thinking about** all those who are helping to keep the country going at the moment. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the current Coronavirus situation – whether that means anxiety, illness or a link to someone who is of concern. We are proud to support each other in any way we can: our key workers, and others, are doing an amazing job at such a difficult time. I wonder how many of us have been able to join in with the 8pm rounds of applause each Thursday evening?!

**We pray:** Along with Fr Hendrick, whose prayer is on page 2 of this bulletin, we pray for love to conquer the fears of the current situation in the world.

Please look out for the prayer resources we are uploading weekly to our website. There are links to the Diocesan Youth Service, who are keen to share their liturgy for Holy Week with all our pupils. We also have 'Pray with Mrs Boucher' on Mondays...

### Our Lead Lay Chaplain, Joe, says...

*You may already be aware of the great resources that are being produced across our Diocese to help you and your children stay connected with our faith at home; particularly those being created by our Youth Service at [www.youtube.com/ndcyslive](http://www.youtube.com/ndcyslive). We would like to invite you and your child/children to join in with Diocese of Nottingham Shared Stations.*

*It is traditional on Good Friday for us to pray the Stations of the Cross; these are 14 stops (or stations) on Jesus' journey from Pilate, to the cross, and then to the tomb. This liturgy involves images, Bible readings, reflections and prayers helping us to imagine we are walking with Jesus. At 12 noon on Good Friday we will be inviting everyone in the Diocese of Nottingham to join us in a shared liturgy with all four CMATs and the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service praying the Stations of the Cross streamed on: [www.youtube.com/NDCYSLive](http://www.youtube.com/NDCYSLive). We are calling it a shared liturgy as we are inviting you to help create it!*

*There are three ways you can get involved, pick a station and then:*

- 1. Create an image of one of the stations – this could be a drawing, a collage, a sculpture, a photo or video of it being acted out*
- 2. Write a reflection about a station – this could be helping us to understand what happened in the Bible reading or helping us think about what this moment means for us now.*
- 3. Write a prayer about the station – this could be a prayer thanking Jesus, asking him to help people in a similar situation, or a sorry prayer. If you wanted to you could do all three! Please send your work to [jhopkins@srsamt.co.uk](mailto:jhopkins@srsamt.co.uk) by **Wednesday 8th April at 5pm**.*

The full letter from Joe is on the Home Learning section of our school website under Pupils/ Whole School Resources.

### SING!

Here is a link to the National Youth Choirs of Scotland with a daily song/activity to keep children singing whilst at home: follow the link – it might be fun!

[www.nycos.co.uk/daily-activities](http://www.nycos.co.uk/daily-activities)

*We send our love and best wishes to all members of our school community:  
Keep in touch!*



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NOTTINGHAM

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St Ralph  
Sherwin  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other

Across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone

May hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number

Through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome

And shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that.

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.

The birds are singing again.

The sky is clearing.

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able

To touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Fr Richard Hendrick, OFM

13 March 2020