



St Joseph's Catholic Academy  
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer  
Acting Head of School – Mrs R Wilson

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear children, parents and families of St Joseph's,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter day yesterday and you were all able to celebrate the day in your own special way, despite being confined to your own homes. We are now entering the church's most important time of the year, the season of Eastertide- a time of great celebration and hope. The story of Eastertide itself is not always hope-filled and brings many trials and uncertainties in the Bible. We witness the disciples feeling despair at Jesus' crucifixion, disbelief in the resurrection, fear for their own future and wonder and awe in God's power at the ascension of Jesus to Heaven. The season of Easter culminates in the great feast of Pentecost, where the gift of the Holy Spirit was left for us all to continue the good work of Jesus Christ in this world that we have been given to care for.

Although we may not feel much like celebrating at the moment, and there will no doubt be more great difficulties over the coming week, the news is generally becoming more positive and we will hopefully soon be over the worst of this dreadful pandemic. Life will return to some form of normality for most of us in the coming months, and each day brings us closer to the day we will join together as a school community once again. I ask you to draw upon your own faith at this time, and pray that the power of God's Spirit will work within us all to offer us hope for a brighter future and a promise of better days to come.

I came across a poem called 'Isolation' this week, which I have shared with the staff and copied on the following pages for you to read- I hope that it offers you some comfort and hope during the continued weeks of difficulty that we may face.

I hope that you have all been enjoying the weather we have been blessed with this week from the safety of your own gardens. This coming week is also forecast to be mostly warm and sunny, so please continue to follow Government guidelines and stay at home, only going out for essential trips. I have heard of some of the lovely activities that some have you have been involved with, but would love to see some of your pictures. So, if you have been doing something creative, important or interesting at home that you would like to share with us, we would really welcome photos of you or your activities. If parents could email them to [stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk](mailto:stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk), we may be able to share a few of your photographs on Facebook or Twitter.

Stay safe, be hopeful and God bless you all. You are all constantly in my prayers.

With very best wishes,

Mrs R Wilson,

Acting Head of School.



## ISOLATION

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.