

'Voice and Spirit' *Of our Painsley Community*

Hi all,

Hope working at home has been fun and engaging.

The chaplaincy crew have put together a few words and prayers for you to use and to think about as you reflect on your first week of studying at home.

Let us first ponder

'If God is the circle whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere, then whoever you are, God is present, inspiration can occur right where you are. Love can grow during a time of isolation.'

Not everyone in their homes has access to a bible or prayer book, but in these times of uncertainty we can pray together with the tools that God gave us:

The Healing Hand of prayer

Thumb (Family - those closest to us)

We pray for those closest to us, those sharing our family home today. We ask for patience, tolerance, forgiveness and love for each other.

Pointer (Painsley College Community - those that point us in the right direction)

We pray for all the staff at our College. We give thanks for all their hard work, time and selflessness in ensuring that we receive an education in times of uncertainty.

Index (Frontline workers – those that lead us)

We pray for those on the frontlines especially doctors, nurses, medical staff and carers. May the Lord protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

Ring (Those who are weak – for the sick)

We pray for those infected with the coronavirus, we pray for not only their healing but for them to be comforted while they heal.

Pinkie (Ourselves – for Faith, Hope and Love)

We pray for ourselves that we will be filled with faith and hope during these uncertain times. Let us take comfort from remembering that our God is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in times of trouble. Our God is the steering wheel that directs the right path for us throughout the bumpy and the smooth journey of our lives.

This Sunday's Gospel

Although we can't visit our parishes or churches for Holy Mass this Sunday, let us find time with our families to read and listen to the Gospel and its message.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."



When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews, who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Reflection

We can all be sceptical and no doubt the idea of someone being raised from the dead is something that is too good to be true. This Sunday's Gospel tells us that Jesus does indeed have power over death. It shows us that the resurrection of the dead is not just mere wishful thinking. Martha's faith in Jesus was rewarded when she and Mary saw her brother resurrected. God loves to reward, as he did in the case of Martha and Mary. God has such rewards for us too; we just need to build a strong faith with Him through our prayers, thoughts and actions. In our unsettled world of today, let us use this time to build that relationship with God and with all whom care for us at home. So that we too will see the goodness and love the Lord has to give.

Stories of hope and inspiration this week

'The clap for our carer's campaign'. Thousands of people have taken to their balconies and windows to applaud the doctors and nurses fighting the virus.

Students in London have volunteered to help health care professionals with childcare and household chores.

Everton football club have launched a 'Blue Family' scheme, a campaign to maintain contact with fans who are most vulnerable, socially isolated and at risk members of the community. The club have given £50,000 to launch the scheme, which will deliver food parcels, give phone credit to those who need it and offer mental health support and advice.

Food for thought...

Let us be "caremongers not scaremongers"

Words from Our Principal

Even though we are not together to reflect on our gospel and what it means to us today, please be assured My prayers for you and your family and in return I ask you to remember our Painsley family in your Thoughts and prayers.
God Bless

