

The Voice and Spirit of Painsley

Hi all,

Hope you are all well and have enjoyed the bank holiday weekend.

This Sunday we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Easter.

We hear in the Gospel message that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. A message that is very reassuring particularly in our current situation of lockdown. During this time, the Chaplaincy Crew are sure that we have all had many moments when we can feel that we have lost the way and have questioned what the future will be like for us after lockdown. Jesus makes it clear in the Gospel message that we will never know the defined way that we are supposed to travel in life, regardless of the situation, but we are instead tasked with simply knowing and trusting in Jesus that He is the Way. When we do this we may not know the defined course we are to travel, but we can rest in the comfort of faith that He will lead us exactly where we need to go as we walk together with Him and hold His hand tightly.

'You hold my hand'

A student would like to share this short reflection with you:

A little girl and her father were crossing a footbridge.

The father asked her to hold his hand but the little girl asked him to hold her hand instead. The father asked her what the difference was. The little girl replied if I hold your hand, I might let go, but if you hold my hand, whatever happens, I know you will never let go of me.

The month of May

As we begin this month of May dedicated to our Blessed Lady, we see the wonder of nature coming to life with new growth and colour. Let us pray...

Mary teach me quietness ~ as the grasses are still with new light

Mary teach me humility ~ as blossoms are humble with beginning.

Mary teach me to care ~ as mothers nurture their young.

Mary teach me courage ~ as the tree that stands alone.

Mary teach me limitation ~ as the ant that crawls on the ground.

Mary teach me freedom ~ as the eagle that soars in the sky.

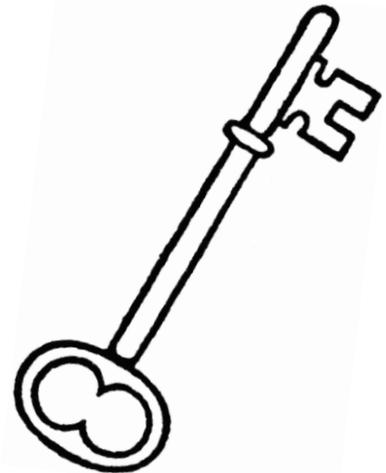
Mary teach me acceptance ~ as the leaves that die each fall.

Mary teach me renewal ~ as the seed that rises in the spring.

Mary teach me to forget myself ~ as melted snow forgets its life.

Mary teach me to remember kindness ~ as dry fields weep with rain.

Mary during this month of May 'teach me'.



This Sunday's Gospel

John 14:1-12

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

Reflection: 'Keys'

During this time of lockdown, one of the items we have not used much is our keys. Keys to our parents' cars as we are unable to travel to make trips to the cinema or visit our friends. Keys to open our lockers at college as we have been unable to go into college and had to home-school instead. Keys to unlock our front doors as we have been asked to stay inside and not to venture far. When we get back to normal, we will have to sort out the keys and remember which key is for which lock. If we get the wrong key and get mixed up, no matter how much we wriggle and twist it, the key just won't open the lock.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes Himself as being the Way, the Truth and the Life. He said that He was going to Heaven to prepare a place for us. Way back in the very beginning, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they sinned it locked the door between God and us and it brought pain and hardship. Well fortunately, God is a pretty good locksmith. He had a plan to bring us back into a relationship with Him. That plan was Jesus. He is the key to life. He is the way we draw nearer to God and one day get to Heaven. It isn't something we can do ourselves. Just like we can't force or wriggle a key into a lock, we won't be able to force our way to Heaven. We will get there though, through Jesus. We just need to put our trust and faith in Him, unlock our hearts so that we can truly listen and follow His path and way.

Remembering always that He is the key that we can reach for right now.

A Year 11 student reflection

Although my lessons have been cut short and my exams have been cancelled, I have still continued to work hard at home. I have enjoyed doing some one to one learning of the Biology and Chemistry A-level topics with my friend over face time calls.

This week, I have taught myself how to cook a delicious tomato soup and a cottage pie. I also baked a heavenly chocolate cake, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Since the beginning of lockdown, I have also gotten back into knitting, making hats and cardigans to be delivered to newborn babies in hospitals.

Every Thursday, I look forward to my clarinet lesson in the morning via a Microsoft Teams call with my teacher and at the end of the day after our clap for the NHS, I enjoy the Kenelm Youth Trust praise and worship live stream on Instagram. This always makes me smile!

Overall, the pandemic has strengthened my faith. Every Sunday, we all sit around the laptop to watch a live-streamed mass, and I really love the praise and worship sessions every Thursday, as previously mentioned, since I haven't been involved in something similar to this since my time at Lourdes.

Letters to our parishioners

Many thanks to all of the families and students who wrote and sent in so many beautiful prayers for our feeder Parishes. Over 80 letters containing the prayers were sent out. We are sure these prayers received through the post will bring much comfort and hope to all recipients.

Inspirational stories of hope and kindness

Disney at the door

Youngsters have been left amazed by an assortment of Disney characters appearing at their windows in Cardiff. Adrian Currie, who runs an entertainment company, has been spending his hour of exercise trying to bring smiles to the faces of kids in Radyr. He told BBC Radio Wales: "We are just doing what we can to make kids smile." He has been walking around waving at children and getting them to draw different Disney characters. "The adults also seem to be enjoying it a lot."

Motivational Messages

A man has written positive messages on pegs and left them in woodland to give people a lift during the coronavirus outbreak. Alan Ayris, from Whitwick in Leicestershire, said he wanted to help anyone who might be struggling with their mental health at the moment. The pegs have been attached to trees in the Holly Hayes Wood.

Food for thought

If you are not willing to learn,
no one can help you,
if you are determined to learn,
no one will stop you.

Message from the Principal

There is no doubt that in these most unusual Times our faith is sometimes put to the test. Yet if we remember that Jesus is 'the way, the Truth and the life' it makes some sense of our Current world and gives us hope for times to come.

God Bless

