

## “Voice and Spirit of Painsley”

Hi all,

The Chaplaincy Crew hope that you have all been enjoying the sunshine this week and are looking forward to the half term break. On Sunday, we celebrate the 7th Sunday of Easter. This is the last Sunday of Easter in the Church’s year and although we will not be able to visit our churches this Sunday, the white altar cloths on the altars will be taken down and replaced with the red ones in preparation for next Sunday’s feast of Pentecost.

In the Gospel, we read about how Jesus prays for His friends...His disciples. As young people, we rely on our friends for help in many circumstances and in return we come to the aid of our friends when they need help too! In the Gospel, Jesus prayed to his Father that his friends “may be one just as you and I are one.”

What do you think he meant? Jesus wanted his disciples to love one another, to be united with each other, to be together – just as closely as Jesus and God the Father are together. Jesus prayed for us too. He wants us to be united, together, loving one another. During this lockdown there are many ways that we can show our love and unity for each other. It could be in the gathering of your household each Thursday evening all clapping together to show your thanks for the NHS. You might spend more time with a sibling listening and playing with them because they are bored and fed up. You might try and be more understanding and patient with the adults in your family who are trying to nurture and guide you in these difficult times. Spending time lovingly together, being at peace with each other, wanting what is best for the other person – this is the key to the Gospel message this Sunday.

### Let us ponder... life after lockdown

When this is all over,  
May we never again  
Take for granted  
A hug from a school friend  
A canteen full of food,  
A conversation with a teacher  
A crowded school assembly hall  
Friday night outings  
The taste of communion  
The school rush each morning,  
Catch up at break time  
The football stadium roaring  
A concert hall singing,  
A boring Tuesday morning  
Life itself

*When it all ends  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the person  
We wanted to be  
We hoped to be  
And may we stay  
That way - better  
For each other  
Because of the worst*

### Sunday’s Gospel

John 17: 1 -11

During these uncertain times we have all been reminded of an important part of our Catholic tradition and that is to pray for one another. Pope Francis has led us all in prayer for healing and a cure for this terrible virus. We have prayed earnestly for the people who have died, the sick, doctors, nurses, scientists, our families and friends. Prayer has been a crucial part for us in dealing with this pandemic. How poignant it is then that we read in Sunday’s Gospel that Jesus prays for the protection of His disciples and He prays for all those who would come to believe in Him because of the disciples’ teachings. That means that Jesus prays for us as well. Our faith teaches us that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the right hand of the Father. And every time we join our hands in prayer to Him we can have that faith and trust that our Father in Heaven truly hears us twice over.



### A Year 10 student’s reflection on the current times

I have found working from home challenging at times, as we are not having as much interaction with staff and being able to easily discuss problems with friends during lessons. My favourite thing that has happened through the live streaming of lessons though is the way that Mr Reynolds starts his lessons. For

example on May the fourth, his lesson started to the Star Wars theme tune and him dressed as Chewbacca. Something positive that has come out of being in lock down is that I have actually been able to go out most days for a bike ride and this has been a great way to get away and unwind from working and looking at screens for several hours. My faith has been challenged many times so far but then I think about how thankful I am that no one close to me has actually suffered from the disease especially my dad who is a front line worker and potentially being exposed everyday. I have had times where I have got really upset because I won't be going to Lourdes next week but I am going to join the online Lourdes pilgrimage, starting on Sunday with Archbishop Bernard's opening Mass at 3pm live streamed from St Chad's Cathedral. Which I am looking forward to! The online pilgrimage will feature daily Mass, liturgy and Rosary 'processions' during the week. You can find the full programme on [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage). Please join the Painsley Lourdes group as we go on a virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

### **The prayers of hope**

The college continues to receive thank you messages and letters from the many parishioners in our feeder Parishes. Here is one on behalf of all the parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Uttoxeter.

"Mission accomplished! Letters sent out with the lovely prayer of hope. Fabulous idea and thank you staff, Chaplaincy Crew and year 7 very much. God bless you all" Fr. Paul Parish Priest of St. Mary's Uttoxeter.

### **A story of inspiration and hope**

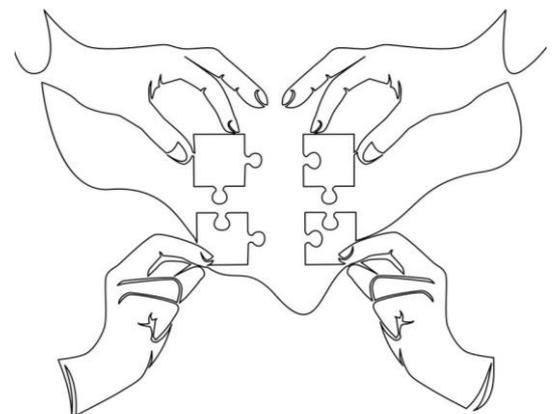
A nine-year-old boy with cerebral palsy is walking laps of his garden to fundraise for the coronavirus, inspired by Sir Tom Moore. As the world continues to fight the coronavirus pandemic, everyone is doing their bit to try and raise money and help in any way they can. Despite having cerebral palsy, Ethan is determined to complete 100 laps of his 25m garden before his 10th birthday on 18th May. His Mum said that they were just sitting in the living room doing school work when he came out with it. He said: "Mum can I join Tom Moore's Army and try and walk like he has?" Ethan revealed that he wanted to raise money for funerals as he had lost his grandad in February and his aunt recently to Covid-19. This is being done through the Care Workers Charity, who didn't have a fund for coronavirus funerals but have set one up just for Ethan's fundraising.

**A Jigsaw puzzle:** A year 9 student would like to share this reflection with you

During this time of lockdown have any of you resorted to getting out a jigsaw puzzle to do? Either on your own or a family effort? Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. Lots of pieces, different sizes, shapes and colours. If you look at one piece of the puzzle you don't get very much of a picture do you? The pieces are not very important by themselves, but when they are all joined together and become one, they show a total different picture.

The jigsaw puzzle can teach us an important lesson about our Painsley community. Our school community is made up of many individual members. Like the pieces of the puzzle, the staff, students and parents all come in different sizes, shapes and appearances. Our college mission tells us to grow together in faith, knowledge, understanding and love so that the world can see God's love in us all.

You and I are very much part of the picture of love. During this time of isolation, we have had the opportunity to really get to 'Know Ourselves' better (our college motto). And when lockdown starts to ease and we eventually get back to normal college life, let us not forget all the skills, talents and qualities that we have discovered about ourselves during this time of isolation. Let us continue to embrace them so that we can be ready, when the time comes, to put our own individual pieces back into the Painsley jigsaw. Altogether with every piece in place the jigsaw of our college community will be complete... it will be the masterpiece our Lord designed us all to fit into.



### **Message from the Principal**

As we break up for half-term please know that each and every one of you are in our thoughts and prayers. We can't wait for a time when we can be back together but in the meantime prayer and faith can unite us all. I wish you all a good week of rest and relaxation and spending time with those in your household.

**God Bless**