

## *“Voice and Spirit of Painsley”*

Hi all,

Hope you are well, the Chaplaincy Crew hope that you all enjoyed the VE Day celebrations with your family. Although events and activities were very limited, the Chaplaincy Crew would love to hear about your celebrations and what you got up to.

This Sunday, we celebrate the 6th Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel reading, Jesus promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. Also on Thursday, the Church celebrates the feast day of the ascension of the Lord, on this feast day we celebrate Jesus' return to the Father in Heaven.

### **Let us ponder.... on 'a bead and a prayer'**

May is the month of our blessed lady Mary, it is a time when we especially pick up our rosary beads and pray to her and with her. Rosary beads can be described as like a piece of rope. A piece of rope that we hold onto as we climb out of difficult situations. And as we pull on the rope, we can feel the knots that we steadily count as we are led to safely. Those knots are like the beads on our rosary, which our heavenly mother leads us with, as she guides us safely into the loving arms of Jesus. In these uncertain and troubling times, let us not only as individuals but as families pick up our beads and hold tight the rope that pulls us to safe ground. Always remembering that it is our blessed mother's hands we are holding.



### **This Sunday's Gospel**

John 14:15-21

In Sunday's Gospel we hear the words 'anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me, and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father and I shall love him and show myself to him'.

A young boy after hearing this reading at Mass was a little confused so on the way home asked his elder sibling to explain, George thought for a moment then said...

Let's play twenty questions, Harry,"

Harry nodded.

"Okay," said George. "I've thought of something."

"Is it animal, vegetable, or mineral?" Harry asked. "None of those," George said. "None?" Harry said surprised. "None."

"Can it touch you?" Harry said.

"Kind of," his brother replied.

"Can you feel it?" Harry asked.

"Definitely!" his brother said.

"Can you see it?" Harry asked.

"In a way 'yes' and in a way 'no'," his brother said smiling.

"George, you're impossible!" Harry complained.

"Come on, let's play the game," his brother responded.

"Okay, its not anything of this earth, you can kind of touch it, you can really feel it, and you can see it but you can't. I know, it's a space alien!" Harry exclaimed. "No," his brother said barely holding back his laughter.

"Well, then. Give me a hint! Does it really exist?" Harry demanded. "Yes, it really exists and it works in you and through you. That's my hint," his brother said smiling.

"In me and through me?" Harry said puzzled. "I know. It's blood. Blood flows in me and through me."

"Good answer, Harry, your biology teacher would be proud but it's not the right answer," his brother replied.

"Does someone else help me with this thing?" Harry asked.

"Yes!" his brother said. "You're getting warmer."

"Does someone have to be alive to have this thing?" Harry asked.

"Yes," his brother said. "You're getting even warmer."

"Is it something you have or something you do?" Harry inquired.

"Actually, both," his brother said.

"Okay. I have this thing and I do this thing. I have to be alive to have this thing. And other people help me with this thing. You've making this real hard, George" Harry said frustrated.

"Then, let me give you one more hint. When you have this thing, you show people who you really are," his brother said.

"I know!" Harry said excitedly. Then he walked over to his brother, hugged him tight, and said "It's love, George." Harry's brother smiled and gave him a big hug back.

Sunday's Gospel was all about love. Love is something we have and we do. It's a feeling and a way to give. We have to be truly alive to love. But, we need others to help us love too. When someone is nice to you, it is easier to be nice to someone else. So, love is something you pass along. And when you pass love along, you show people the real you, what you are like inside. Jesus tells us to love others the way He loves the Father and the way He loves us. To give to others the way He gives to us. In that way, we can show others we are loving people who worship a loving God. When we love others, we show what God is really like. God is love! How often through these past weeks have we seen love truly in action?

### **The Ascension of Jesus**

Matthew 28:16-20

As Jesus returns to the Father, the disciples and all who follow them are called to 'make disciples of all nations, baptise them... and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you'. Jesus assures us: "know that I am with you always." How poignant for our world of today.

### **A lovely account from a year 10 student of life and learning during lockdown**

"In these strange times, it has taken a lot of adjustment to adapt and get used to a new routine. Luckily, the teachers have made this transition a lot easier, and I greatly look forward to Mr Linney's dodgy jokes and Miss Swinson's scientific experiments. This week, Mr Davenport opened our lesson with a really soul searching question - "What is your favourite biscuit?". While it does seem funny to say this in this scary and difficult time, my faith has made me appreciate things that prior to this pandemic, I would have taken for granted. I have complete faith that everything that happens is part of God's plan for us, and that his love for all of us will bring us to a happier and better place when this is all over."

### **The prayers of Hope**

The college has received many 'thank you' messages from our feeder parish priests and parishioners for the beautiful prayer of hope they received in the post. Here is one we would like to share with you from a parishioner in Caverswall. "I am expressing along with my centenarian mother our heartfelt thanks to you all for the Year 7 prayer of hope. I have just found the envelope waiting for us as we returned home from one of the Covid testing sites where we have just been tested. It was truly a 'thank you'. God bless all."

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

Homework to make you smile

In an attempt to raise everyone's spirits while away from school, Pete Dring, an IT teacher at Fulford School, decided to set some homework for his pupils with the mission to make people smile. The children were tasked to make a short video that would make people laugh and lift the spirits of those stuck at home. From this, a 12-year-old animation genius caught his big break, as his video went viral within hours, after his dad posted the stop-motion movie.

The video received over 600,000 views in less than a day, one of which was from animation legend Peter Lord, of Wallace and Gromit fame. The pupil now plans to create a sequel and hopes to donate any proceeds to his local hospital.

A year 8 student would like to share this reflection with you

As we continue to spend more time and space with our families at home let us remember:

Never get tired of doing little things for one another...

Because sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts.

### **Food for thought (for all of you mathematicians)**

Life is a maths equation

In order to gain the most

You have to know how to convert

The negatives into POSITIVES

### **Message from the Principal**

As we prepare for the next phase on our journey many of us share Concerns and worries. During these times it is so important to hold True to our faith and rely on our faith to carry us through. As we Approach the feast of the Ascension there is no doubt that Jesus walks With us on our journey and carries our prayers to Our Father in heaven.

God Bless

