

The Voice and Spirit of Painsley

Hi all,

The Chaplaincy Crew hope you have had a good week and have all settled back into the new norm of college life. On Sunday, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We especially remember all our primary school children who are part of our MAC who would have been receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist, their first Holy Communion on this great Feast Day. We hope that this special celebration will be able to take place soon; in the meantime, we hold them all dear in our prayers.

Although we have had to cancel so many services, events, parties and outings these last few months let us not forget and be grateful that...

Sunshine is not cancelled

Summer is not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Naps are not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Dancing is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversation is not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

And PRAYER is certainly not cancelled.

This Sunday's Gospel

Gospel Reading

John 6:51-58

Jesus says, "I am the living bread."

This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This day was once called Corpus Christi, which is Latin for "Body of Christ." During this pandemic flour and yeast have been in short supply, shoppers have been stocking up on these particular items so that they can make their own bread in case there is none to be bought in the supermarkets.

Out of all the necessities we need to survive, why do you think these items were so valuable and sort after? Bread it seems is so important for us all to have.

Bread is a staple of our diet today, as it was for the people of Jesus' time. To understand the Gospel that we will hear on Sunday, we must know a little bit about the story that precedes it. A crowd of people had gathered to hear Jesus. Jesus had blessed five barley loaves and two fish, and there was enough to feed over five thousand people. Many people came to believe that Jesus came from God because of this miracle. The next day the crowd continued to follow Jesus, and many wanted to see Him perform another miracle. Jesus talked with them about the miracle, the sign that He had performed. Many people who heard Him were not sure how to receive His words.

The kind of bread Jesus says He will give us is the 'living bread' that comes from Heaven. For those who eat this bread will have eternal life. Jesus will come to live in those who eat this bread. Jesus also tells us that this living bread is His flesh for the life of the world, Jesus is talking about the Eucharist. In the Gospel reading, Jesus is telling us about the special gift that He gives us in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. When we share in the Eucharist, Jesus is present to us, and through our communion, we will share eternal life.

In these unprecedented times when our churches are locked and we are unable to receive Holy Communion, let us turn towards the tabernacle and remember no wall can shut us out from our God and His gift of the Bread of life for our Spiritual journey.

Our spiritual communion prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

An inspirational story of hope from Lexi-Mai, a year 7 student

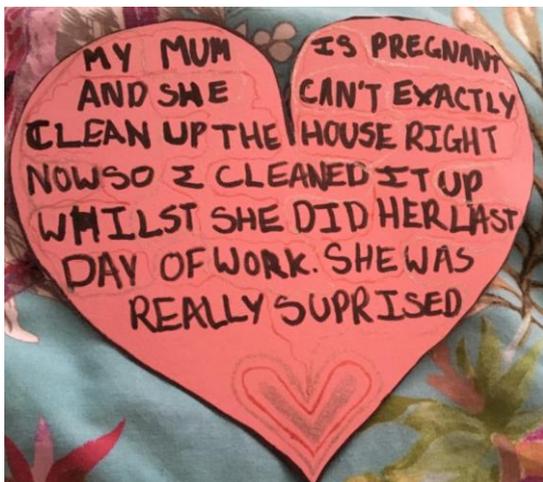
"I made a poster for my godfather Tom because he is a doctor in Manchester and I thought that this would give him the courage to keep going and helping people. I wanted him to know that he is a hero. Thomas my godfather said that it brought a tear to his eye and he now hangs the poster in a place that he can see it every day to inspire him to keep going. When I saw how much this meant to him I then had the idea to make salt dough hearts and stars with a poem attached, with my siblings for friends and family to let them know that we still think about them and can't wait to finally hug them one day soon. We just wanted to make the people we care about smile."

In this time in which we are not able to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, we must remember that we always have the opportunity to encounter Jesus in the vulnerable, lonely, isolated and sick. St. John Chrysostom taught us to honour Jesus not only in the Eucharist but also on our streets and in our homes. This is how our wonderful 'Shining Sacred Heart' students have been doing just that!

'Shining Sacred Heart' Students

What a wonderful response we have had from our RE students who have been creating hearts with messages inside to show how they have helped and supported their families and friends whilst at home.

Here are a few more that we would like to share with you:



Food for thought

In these uncertain times, our minds can lead us to think about all the things that we cannot do and have been unable to do. This is a lovely prayer for us to say and reflect on so that we can change our thinking for the better as we look forward with confidence and hope to the new future.

The Knot prayer

Dear God

Please untie the KNOTS in our heart

Remove the HAVE NOTS, the CAN NOTS and the DO NOTS

Erase the WILL NOTS, MAY NOTS, MIGHT NOTS

Release from us the COULD NOTS, WOULD NOTS and SHOULD NOTS

And most of all help us to let go of the AM-NOTS

So that we will never forget that your Spirit, hope and assurance ARE NOT ever very far away from us.

Amen

A message from the Principal

The feast of Corpus Christi reminds me of St Paul's analogy of the Body of Christ. As a community we are Christ on earth today and it is only when we are all working together and playing our part that we are complete. Even in these times of separation to hear of our wonderful students demonstrating such God given gifts and talents reminds us that we are indeed the Painsley community.

God bless