

The Voice and Spirit of Painsley

Hi all,

It has been so lovely to see some more students back into college this week. It has been especially good to see our Year 6 primary students experience life here at Painsley even if it is in the setting of the 'new norm'. Hearing some of the comments made, everyone had a great time and is looking forward to becoming part of the Painsley family. The Chaplaincy Crew are looking forward to inviting them all to join in with the spiritual life of the college, they have so many activities, clubs and events planned for the near future. Exciting times ahead.

On Sunday, the Church celebrates the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We hear how Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like seed that is sown on good soil. The Chaplaincy Crew invite all our Year 6 students to continue to open their hearts so that the Word of God can take root in them and produce abundant fruit to share with us all in September.

Let us ponder...

As technology advances further and further it has begun to dictate not only how we communicate with each other but also the way we communicate. What a blessing it has been during lockdown. When Frederic Ozanam said "embrace the world in a network of love" he had no idea that we'd be sending virtual hugs and liking, pinning, tweeting, zoom calling and trending our joys and sadness across the world when we needed to communicate the most. He had no idea that in the 21st century, the term "network" would have a whole different meaning. During the last few months we have been blessed to know that our extended families and friends are only a few cables and an internet connection away.

How fitting is this contemporary take on Saint Teresa of Avila's well-known prayer "Christ Has no Body but Yours"

*Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours,
Yours are the tweets through which love touches this world,
Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared,
Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.
No blog, no Facebook page but yours.
Christ has no online presence but yours,
Let's together make Christ's presence known.*

This Sunday's Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us the story of the Parable of the Sower, it is about a man who sows the same seeds on various types of grounds. In the parable, the sower is God, the seeds are the Word of God, and the different types of soil are different types of people with different lives.

Now I'm sure during lockdown we have all had the opportunity to read more, whether it's been a book we've had on the shelf or in a book case for a while and never had the time to pick it up and read it. Well everyone loves a good story and some stories have taken our culture by storm such as: Harry Potter, the Avengers, the Twilight Saga, The Hunger Games, to name but a few. God designed us to be fascinated with stories because all of our lives are caught up in the overarching story of the Gospel and the Kingdom of Christ. Jesus was the master-story teller. His stories were intriguing, gripping and fascinating. Jesus told His disciples that He told His stories (the parables) so that some people would understand and that some wouldn't. Jesus told somewhere around 50 different parables and made up about a third of His teaching combined.

When we read the parable stories and hear God's Word, it is like looking in a mirror. This mirror doesn't show us if we have messy hair or food on our face. This mirror shows us the condition of our heart. If we are getting ready to go somewhere we don't run by the mirror and take a quick glance at ourselves and feel that is enough to be ready for the world. Most of us want to take a few minutes and make sure we don't have toothpaste left on the corners of our mouth. Did we comb our hair so that it is neatly in place? Unfortunately many of us look at our hearts with a quick glance into the mirror of God's Word. Because we don't take a few minutes and really look, we don't notice that we are starting to get a bad attitude, nasty thoughts etc. If that bad attitude or thoughts are not taken care of it becomes a bigger problem. If we want to have a heart that pleases Jesus, we really need to listen to what God's Word is saying especially when He speaks to us in parables.

God, give us ears to hear. And nurture our hearts' soil, that we might produce grain for you. Amen.

Food for thought

God is calling you to sainthood.
He has planted the seed of faith in your life.
It is very likely that you have encountered him many times.
But, God does not force the seed of faith to grow.
He does not make you respond.
Instead, day after day,
We have the opportunity to walk in faith, responding to God's call.
As we do, the seed of faith grows and sprouts.
The work of sainthood happens,
Not in an instant,
But in the everyday moments.

Thank you letter for our wonderful Year 7 students

Dear children of Year 7

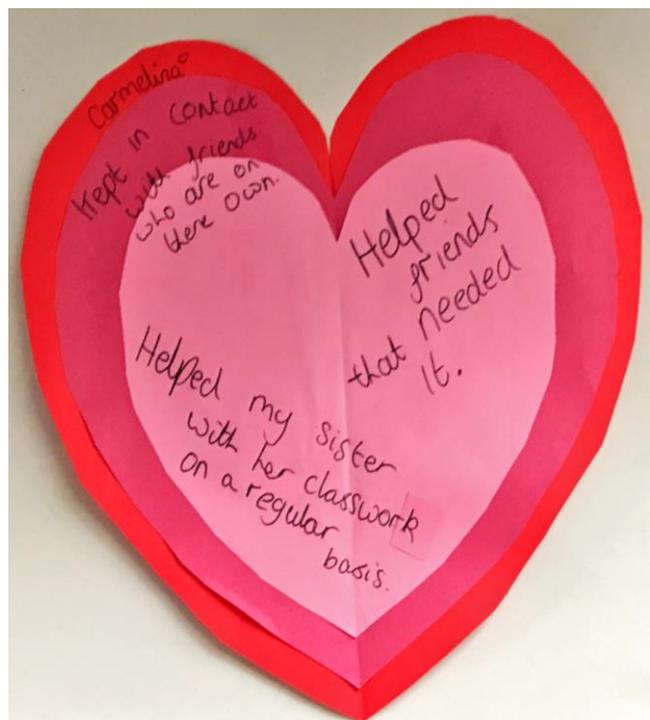
Thank you so much for your prayerful message. We are a couple who have been housebound for some time before Covid 19 but have been well blessed by having a large family and we have been receiving Holy communion from the Eucharistic Minister at home on a weekly basis. As you will know all visits have stopped and as we were both used to being surrounded by people in our working lives, the sudden quiet has been a bit of a shock. We were a teacher and a nurse and few are now 91 years and 85 years old.

Your prayer helped us to realise that we are still part of the wider church body. God bless you all.

Doris and Marcus Munro.

Our Shining Sacred Hearts students have been sowing their seeds of love again.

God planted the seed of faith in our hearts. All we have to do is: water it with prayer, fertilise it with the word of God and cultivate it with lots of love.



Message from the Principal

As we approach the end of our academic year may we continue to hear the word of God and act on it in our daily life.

God Bless