

The Voice and Spirit of Painsley

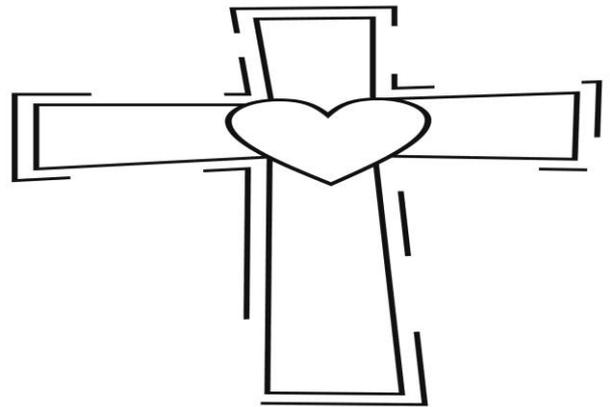
Hi all,

The Chaplaincy Crew would like to begin with wishing you all a blessed, happy and safe summer holiday. It has been a strange few months for us all but it has been lovely to be able to keep in touch with you through our newsletter. We would like to thank all of the students who have contributed to the newsletter with their articles, stories and reflections. It has been so uplifting and encouraging reading these. We have been blown away by all the 'shining sacred hearts' sent into us, designed and created by you all through your R.E lessons. It has been particularly overwhelming to read how you all have been supporting and helping your families and the wider community at this time. What fantastic students we have here at Painsley! It has also been lovely to hear that our newsletter has been circulating among our parishes too. We have had so many letters of thanks and comments particularly from our elderly parishioners who have been feeling isolated and alone and have enjoyed sharing your articles and prayers. The prayers of hope in particular which were written from our Year 7 students were so well received by our parishioners. In their own words they felt 'truly blessed and loved' by you all.

On Sunday, the Church celebrates the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We hear Jesus offering more parables about the Kingdom of Heaven as He explains the parables to His disciples. In the first parable, we are warned against judging people and we are reminded that final judgment rests with God. How often are we tempted to judge others?

A well-known proverb teaches not to judge others until you have walked in their shoes
Let us ponder...

*When you judge others
You do not define them
You define yourself*



This Sunday's Gospel

Matthew 13:24-43

During lockdown many of us have spent more time in our gardens. Whether that has been to sunbathe when we had the glorious weather or to do a bit of gardening and tidying up. As you probably know, one of the biggest enemies of a good garden is weeds. Weeds will rob the soil of the nutrients that help the plants to grow and often they will choke out good plants. What do we do when this happens? Well, we sometimes take a hoe and chop down the weeds, but we have to be careful when we do that, because we end up chopping down some of the good plants by accident. Another solution to getting rid of the weeds is to buy some weed killer. This stuff will really kill the weeds. Unfortunately the biggest problem with weed killer is that it doesn't know a tumble weed from a tomato plant. It kills every plant that it touches. Sometimes, it is best just to leave the weeds alone until it is time to harvest the crop. Then you can separate the weeds from the good plants.

In the Gospel, Jesus told a parable that compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a garden that was infested with weeds. Sometimes there may be people around in the Kingdom that don't really belong there. They do things that aren't very loving and they don't seem to believe what the Bible teaches. They sometimes act and say hurtful things. They are like weeds in a garden. But Jesus tells us to be very careful about trying to remove those people from the Kingdom. In his story, Jesus said that we shouldn't worry about pulling up the weeds that grow around us. If we do, we may do more harm than good. He suggests that we leave the weeds for God to take care of - and concentrate on doing what He wants us to do - which is producing good fruit.

So the next time we decide to pass judgement on someone, before we grab our hoes or our weed killer, remember the advice of Jesus. Just leave it up to God to separate the weeds from the good plants. If we try to take matters into our own hands, we will probably do more harm than good.

Lord Jesus, help us to love one another and leave the matter of judgment in your hands. Help us not to worry too much about who is good and who is bad. Help us to show the love of Jesus to everyone.
Amen

The Tree of Hope

Our Year 7 student Chichi wrote this beautiful poem to thank staff and students for the olive tree sent to her during lockdown.

This is the story of my olive tree,
That brings great love and growth to me.
Of all the days it made me smile, and all the days it made worth the while.
As I watched my olive tree grow, the more love it began to show.
So I thank you for my olive tree, and all good deeds it brings to me.
I hope to carry it in my heart wherever I go
and spread the great love, it first showed.

Thanksgiving prayer for the end of term

O God of all beginnings and endings
We praise and thank you for the gift of this college year.
It has been a time filled with exceptional challenges, anticipation, joy and sorrow
And yet we have been filled with your grace and blessings in so many ways,
Through our teachers, families, friends and the wider community
Give us the rest and refreshment we all need this summer
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit
And bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion
Bless us Lord and watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead
Continue to guide each day as you have done this past year
May we return to college in September with a new spirit and a new energy
As we look forward to new beginnings with wisdom, grace and love.
Amen

Last day of term

Pencils - tiny
Erasers - small
Glue - empty
Folders - flat
Crayons - broken
Desk/worktop - neat
Memories - forever
Year - COMPLETE



Message from the Principal

As we conclude the academic year 2019/20 we thank God for the many blessings we have received. In the strangest times the blessings and hope we have received from each other are all the more meaningful. I wish you all the most blessed holiday, full of family time and relaxation.

God Bless