



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Newsletter — May 2020

'We welcome everyone into our community to live, love and learn together in the light and example of Jesus Christ'

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

'Eloquent and Truthful'

Pupils at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School aim to be **eloquent** in what they say of themselves and **truthful** about themselves and to all they meet.

May- The month of the Rosary

During May and in particular on **13th May**, we pay tribute to our Patron Saint, Our Lady of Fatima. As Catholics, we are encouraged to pray the Rosary in honour of Mary. The Rosary is a simple but powerful prayer to God, through His mother Mary. As it is a combination of vocal and mental prayer, saying the Rosary as a family can be so spiritually fulfilling. Whilst reciting the Our Father, ten Hail Marys and a Glory Be, we can reflect on the many stages of the life of Jesus. On 13th May 1917, Our Lady of Fatima shared: *'Pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world.'* Sister Lucia of Fatima also shared: *'There is no problem, no matter how difficult, that we cannot resolve by prayer of the Holy Rosary.'* Please support your child by praying the Rosary.



Stay Safe

Hopefully our children and their families enjoyed the Easter break under the current circumstances. It certainly was very strange not being present at Church to celebrate the Easter weekend as a local community. However, the priority for us all is to keep our school community safe. We are thinking about you all and we miss seeing

everyone at school very much. School was open over the Easter break for children whose parents work on the frontline to support those in need at this difficult time. Many thanks to members of our staff for continuing to support our families and children at Our Lady of Fatima School. The best place for our children is for them to remain at home until further information and specific advice is provided by the government. The home learning opportunities planned by staff will enable our children to continue to develop and grow in terms of learning with vital parental support. The aim is for the children to complete around three hours of learning per day but as their primary educators, parents will need to make a judgement on whether this is proving appropriate for their child/ren and can also be found on our website under the Curriculum tab, on the Home Learning page www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk If any further guidance is required, please contact the school via enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk or your child's year group email address (for example: year1@olfatima.bham.sch.uk) or by calling the school office. Please continue to keep safe, look after yourselves and stay safe at home.

Father Long is supporting patients at the new Nightingale Hospital. Please remember him in your prayers as he undertakes his ministry.

The Pope's Intention for May 2020

For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Livestream Masses across the Archdiocese

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has gathered together some of the parishes across the Diocese which live stream their Masses, so Mass and services can still be accessed even if not in person.

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/parishes-online>

Resources to support children's liturgy and prayer

On the Birmingham Diocesan Education website there is a webpage containing links to Prayer and Learning Resources for both home and school. This includes the CAFOD Virtual Sunday Children's Liturgy and a child's prayer for Spiritual Communion. More resources will be added as they become available.

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/des-support-for-schools-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

Wednesday Word

During this period of school closure, the Wednesday Word has ceased to be published as a hard copy. It is, however, available on a weekly basis via the following link:

www.wednesdayword.org and simply click "Schools please enter [HERE](#) for the Primary School version".

Please use this as preparation for preparing your child/ren for the weekly Gospel.

Good Shepherd/Vocations Sunday



This Sunday 3rd May is Vocations. Pope Francis wants us all to reflect on the Gospel passage of the stormy night on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14: 22-33). This took place after Jesus had astonished the crowds by multiplying loaves and fish to feed the 5,000. He told his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side of the shore. The image of the disciples is like our own life's journey. We trust that the boat of life is being steered on the right course. However, sometimes it drifts off course, heads in the wrong direction, or the waters can be choppy and we become fearful. This is true of our own vocation in life - the call to follow Jesus. We have ups and downs and can be scared of the future. When being a disciple is challenging, the Gospel tells us that Jesus is there for us: he walks on the troubled waters to join the disciples; he invites Peter to come to him on the waves, saves him when he starts to sink and, once in the boat, makes the wind die down. Pope Francis asks us to continue to promote vocations. This means **encouraging** people to be like our Mother Mary: to **gratefully** discover God's call in their lives, to find **courage** to say "yes" to God, to overcome all **fatigue** through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of **praise** for God - for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world.

A Coronavirus book for children

A book specifically for children about Coronavirus has been written by Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts and illustrated by Axel Scheffler, the illustrator of books such as the Gruffalo. Please share this online book with your child to support them through this time. It may help them with any questions, worries or anxiety they may have.

https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf

Twitter



During this unprecedented, uncertain time our Holy Father offers daily messages of hope. Please consider following him on Twitter **@Pontifex** to access these powerful thoughts.

Father Long regularly adds messages to Twitter. Please also think about following **@OLFQuinton** to read his messages.

Our own school Twitter account is regularly updated with messages, thoughts and photos of learning activities. It is a good way to see learning at home and school taking place. Please consider following us **@OLOFPrimary**

Year 3 and Year 6 Sacramental Preparation



As most children are staying at home until further notice, Year 3's Sacrament of the Eucharist has been postponed. It is highly likely that Year 6's Sacrament of Confirmation, due to take place in July will also be postponed. Not least, we are unsure at this point whether large gatherings will be allowed by July, but also the children will not have been sufficiently prepared to be able to commit to these Sacraments. We will keep parents informed as soon as we have more information, following consultation with the Diocese and Father Long.



Lenten Appeal Donations



The date for returning Good Shepherd Appeal boxes will be extended until our whole school family is back together again, when we will also be able to update you on the amounts so kindly donated during our weekly Lenten appeals. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

School Parent Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the recent Parent Survey, the results of which will be available in due course on our website. www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

A final thought in these challenging times:

And the people stayed home and read books and
listened and rested and exercised and made art
and played.
And learned new ways of being
And stopped...and listened deeper to each other.
Someone meditated...
Someone prayed...
Someone danced...
Someone met their shadow...
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant
ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless...
Even the earth began to heal
And when the danger ended and people found each
other
They grieved for the dead people
And they made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of life
And healed the earth completely Just as they were
healed themselves.