



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 24 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We come to the end of the third week of school closure and pupils working from the online resources at home. It is clear that the majority of pupils are working very hard and are completing tasks with great success. Where pupils have encountered difficulty, they have been communicating with their teachers who have been helping them directly. We know that this will never replace school. The human contact, when having something explained, is so very important. The teacher is a vital source of motivation and belief and children can struggle without their teacher and class contact. Do please read and try the ideas suggested in the guidance booklet sent to all families by Mr Charnock.

We have been open all through the Easter two-week holiday and I am very grateful to the staff who volunteered to come into school to offer activities to the pupils whose parents are key workers and who had to be attending their place of work. These are unprecedented times and such commitment is very much what we have come to expect not just from our staff here at school but also from countless others who are continuing to put themselves at risk to support others and keep our country running.

Our collective worship today was centred on the Feeding of the Five Thousand, John 6:1-15. We thought in particular of those who always think of others and put their needs first, especially when it comes to having enough to eat. It is our duty to look after others and believe that God provides easily enough for all of our needs (but, as Mahatma Gandhi said, '...not enough for our greed'). We also recognised from the Gospel that, through Jesus, there was easily sufficient bread and fish; the supply did not run out. In the same way the love of God does not run out; there will always be sufficient.

John's Gospel 6:1-15

After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he had done in curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with his disciples.

The time of the Jewish Passover was near. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?'. He said this only to put Philip to the test; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would not buy enough to give them a little piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'Here is a small boy with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that among so many?'

Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were sitting there; he then did the same with the fish, distributing as much as they wanted. When they had eaten enough, he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing is wasted.' So, they picked them up and filled twelve large baskets with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves.

Seeing the sign that he had done, the people said, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, as he realised they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, fled back to the hills alone.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr N Ranson  
Headteacher