

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

COVID 19 – Update 30th March 2020



“Do not hide your **face** from me...” Psalm 101

The face of God is all around us.

We are all made in God's image.

Do I recognise God's image in those around me?



Current school contact information

Tel. 0113 2480380 (answer machine) or office@stpatrickleeds.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I pray that this day finds you all fit and well. We are now in Week 2 of lockdown and we must all continue to play our part by keeping our distance from each other to stop the spread of the virus. We must stay home – this is the safest place for everybody at this current time and for the foreseeable future. I know this is challenging and it is upsetting but we pray this will be only for a limited amount of time.

Family Safety

Please can I urge you all to be extra cautious when replying to text messages and emails. West Yorkshire Police have said there has been a surge in bogus fraud scams, including ones about free school meals. The message is clear - Do not give your bank details or personal information to anyone you do not normally deal with.

FSM Meals

We continue to provide free school meals for all those eligible. These are available daily (Mon. to Fri.) 12.30-12.45pm from the school gate next to church. There is no fuss or queuing... just take off the wall and go! If you are eligible, please pick them up. I have been giving any spare lunches left at the end of day to a foodbank. There may be a move towards providing vouchers to families instead of the current arrangement- if this changes, I will let all eligible families know.

I have attached information regarding emergency help, should your family need essential food supplies. Please contact me on office@stpatrickleeds.org.uk or leave a message on the school phone line, if you are in this position. There is also a contact phone number on the attachment. There are people who can help you if you need it.

Vulnerable and SEND pupils

We will be keeping in regular contact with all our children who have an EHC plan in school, to make sure their needs are being met. I have included an updated link from Leeds City Council to their local offer page regarding SEN pupils. This website provides information and advice around SEND needs and the support available at the present time. <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/search/list?query=COVID19>

Lent 2020

The current situation means we are no longer able to worship together in public. You can however, logon to the Youtube channel - www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk each weekday at 10.30am and on Sundays at 11am where Mass is streamed live from Leeds Cathedral.



This week, the fifth Sunday of Lent, Bishop Marcus celebrated Mass and invited us to join him in spiritual communion. Please take up the invitation. In these times, it is important that the voice of prayer does not become silent and that the Church's liturgy continues to be celebrated. I hope that the children have been active in preparing a daily act of worship for you as a family at home. At the end of the newsletter I have included a message from Canon McGillycuddy. I saw him last week (from a distance) and he is well. He sends his regards to every family.

Learning at home

The staff are missing the children and have asked me to pass on all their well wishes to each and every family. Please take the time to log onto the VLE and engage with them and the activities they have prepared. I know having a structure to the day and making learning part of each day, is working in my own house and I think it's important we keep a sense of normality. The online platform also allows the children to have some contact with their friends in a safe and productive way.

I hear many stories of parents coming up with creative and engaging ways to keep children occupied. Families are baking, creating, making, dancing, singing, sewing, gluing and knitting and that's all before lunch. Well done to you all.

I will try to share useful links that may help keep children at home entertained. This week it's <https://www.playpennies.com/free-things-to-do/free-virtual-tours-of-museums-zoos-landmarks-more-186130>. The site offers links to virtual tours of museums, zoos, landmarks and much more from all over the world. Wow...travel around the globe from your living room.

Rainbow Moments – Signs of hope and peace

Going forward in these dark times, I want to share stories of people who are going above and beyond to help others in need. Having a sense of duty and being of service to others, is core here at St.Patrick's and as a nation this is now what is uniting us all together.

My nomination this week goes to all the frontline NHS workers, whatever your role may be. I know that while the entire nation are being asked to stay home and protect their families, you are making your way out of the door and putting yourselves at risk to provide a life-saving service. I know many of our school community work as frontline NHS. My own sister, is a nurse and is currently on shift at the LGI. I know of a number of nurses, parents in our school, who now are no longer living with their family at home, so that they can carry on serving, whilst trying to protect their own family. All the Grady family were out on the doorstep last week at 8pm, clapping and cheering for our NHS heroes. We salute you all.

Pope Francis said last week... those people who even though they are fearful have reacted by giving their lives, this he said, "is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial."

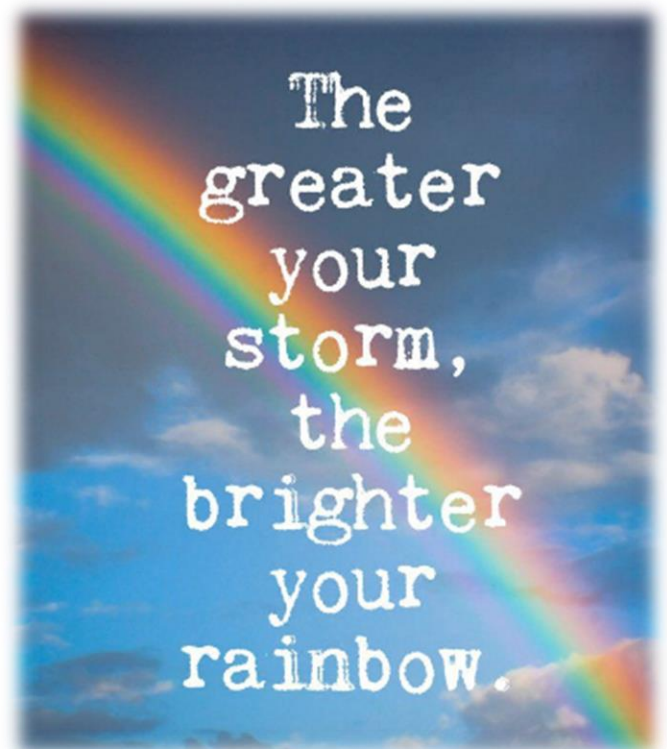
If you would like to nominate someone, this may be an adult or child, or you simply want to share a story that has just touched your heart, please share with me on the office@stpatrickleeds.org.uk email address.

Let's give some people a well-deserved public 'shout out'. These stories provide us with an uplifting sense, that all will be well because we live among people who genuinely care about each other and want to make the difference for others.

Take care of yourselves and each other

With my warmest wishes,

Mrs Grady



A message from Fr Eugene (March 2020)

I hope you are all well in the family of St Patrick's.
You are always in my thoughts and prayers and I hope and pray that the
Good Lord will keep us safe.

May we use this period of containment to reflect and
pray for all the world and remember those who still have to work to keep us safe.

Hopefully, at this time people will take the opportunity
to remind themselves of what is really important;
health, family, friends and helping others and may we think of the people
and things we sometimes take for granted.

Stay strong, stay positive and most of all, stay safe.

