



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 3 | 13 April 2020

Teenager's Tip

Love Thy Neighbour - School Siblings

Love thy neighbour, but when it's your brother or sister, everything flies out of the window. Perhaps now is the time to realise that all the rivalry and competition is great, but they are the ones who have your back, generally when you need it most. As we're not out and about here's a few tips to survive in the same household.

Ignore obnoxious or rude comments to prevent a fight. We're meant to bicker, it's part of the job. But, if your brother says something rude, try to ignore it and let it go. If you fuel his fire, then an argument might spark. Instead of telling him he is an idiot, just don't say anything at all.

For the times when you can't hold your tongue, pause and relax so you don't make the fight worse if they are annoying. Calm yourself down by taking a few deep breaths. This will help you keep your cool. When you start to get defensive, most likely they will too. Get your parents to referee a real competition between you. It could be anything from a game of cards to a bake off. If you do this, you need to be prepared to lose. Competitions have to have a loser, if there is to be a winner.

If all else fails, write down three traits you'd like to see in the perfect person. Then swap. What are you doing to be the person you'd like to be? It's probably something you can work on.

This is such a unique opportunity, build those bridges and make those bonds, we don't know what's around the corner. Love thy neighbour, but it would help everyone, if you start within the home.

Sunday 7pm School Song

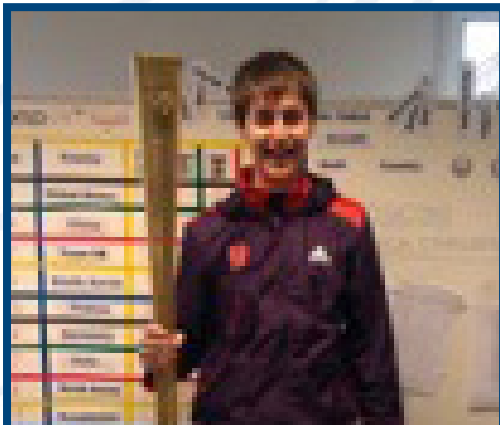
Why not sing this as we light our candles together!

BEFORE THE THRONE
OF GOD ABOVE



Easter Garden

By Jamie Feltell and his sister.



20 year old Mr English on duty at the Olympic Games in 2012.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Hebrews 13:8

Song of the Week



Build Your Kingdom Here

A song chosen by Mr English to connect with his thought for the week, connecting to building God's Kingdom on earth.

Thought for the week

From the Empty Tomb By Mr English

In 2012 I worked at the Olympic games, it was an incredible experience (it's where I found my love of pin badges) but it finished and that was that. In 2014 I worked at the Commonwealth games, that too was an incredible experience but after a few weeks that too finished and that was that.

When I think about it there are quite a lot of life events where there is a great build-up and an incredible experience but an enormous void afterwards. Maybe you feel as though there is something missing from this year, a sense of achievement that could have been filled by success in exams or super progress in your subjects.

There could be a risk at this time of year that as Christians we might see and meet the resurrected Jesus and think that the story finishes there. That we could be found with an emptiness when we move on from Easter.

In Church on Sunday you might normally have said something like:

**"Alleluia, Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia."**

those words almost seem like an end in themselves but that is not the case. Whilst Jesus' resurrection is final in defeating sin and death, it is not the end of the story. As Christians we find fulfilment in life going from the empty tomb. We find purpose in the building and spreading of God's Kingdom on Earth. The story doesn't finish with an empty tomb, it finishes with an instruction to tell the world of the empty tomb.

In the book of Matthew these words are recorded:

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

When Jesus says these words, He says them as a resurrected man. His death and resurrection are the story to tell so that more people may believe in Him and experience the glories of His kingdom. Jesus wants us to share the goodness, generosity and love that we find in the Kingdom of God with everyone we can. To show people a better way to live and a greater purpose to live for.

I have a lot of hopes at the minute: hope that we can return to school, hope that I can spend more time with my family and friends and hope that I can go on my summer holiday. But my biggest hope remains that more of us will know more and more of the Kingdom of God, what it means to live in it and to share that joy with others.

Going forward from Easter, may you really know that Jesus says, **"I am with you always."**

Poem for the Week

Chosen by our school friend Emma Owen:

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur (with a nod to Dr Seuss)



Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming."

"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo."

"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well...the story's not done.
What will YOU do?

Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.



Church Support

In this season of Easter, we are still able to connect to each other and with church. Here are links to some alternative services and ways to contact some of our School Chaplains or their Churches. You are not alone!

Revd Ian Enticott: Accrington St. James and St. Paul, find their YouTube Channel [here](#)

Revd Hugh Scriven: Huncoat St. John's and Augustine's is happy to send news, some written prayers and Bible reflections each week to anyone upon request. Please email him [here](#)

Revd Mark Pickett: Clitheroe St. James, Virtual Prayer Space and weekly online services can be found [here](#)

Father Chris Holden: Rishton St Peter's and St Paul's is happy for you to get in touch with him use this [email](#)

A Church Near You: A website to help you find out what is going on in a Church local to you. Follow this [link](#).

Further links will be provided in future weekly bulletins.



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