



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 5 | 27 April 2020

Teenager's Tip

Fun and Faith

Daniel Pountain, Year 9.

So, we've been inside for quite a few weeks now and life is certainly different! I have found it really helpful to take any opportunity to be creative with my work and have some fun not taking myself too seriously. But, at the same time, I've been feeling it's important to take a break from the work set. I enjoy just going on my Xbox and playing with my friends. I find it is helpful to keep connections with my friends and family and do online activities with them whether that's video games with friends or FaceTime with the grandparents. As a family we light a candle and pray for whatever is relevant at the time, every day at 7pm, which is an activity that the church asks us to do every Sunday. It gives us hope and we hope that it does the same for others. With all the lovely weather I have been able to go outside with my dad and absolutely destroy him at football. It is a highlight going out into our back garden and giving a variety of games a try, but I don't think our neighbours feel the same way as our collection of sports equipment slowly depletes into their garden. My final tip is if you're bored, to have fun making things up, just get whoever you can and create an activity like me and my dad have created our own, surprisingly fun, game 'grugby' that is a cross between football and rugby, just see what sticks. So, to summarise:



1. Have fun with your work and have a laugh while trying your best,
 2. Have a break and play online with friends,
 3. Call someone who might be lonely,
 4. Go outside and get some fresh air,
 5. Invent a game to play,
- and finally the most important keep your faith and pray as He will always listen.

Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!



Thought for the week

Where is God in all of this?

By Mr Paul Cuff - Deputy Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

The Covid crisis, currently wreaking havoc across our nation and the world, is not only a great test for our country's leaders, the health profession and care workers, but it is also proving to be a great test of our faith. In this time of suffering and anxiety, many of us might be asking, "Why does God allow this? Does God really care? Where is God in all of this?" They are questions that perhaps offer the deepest challenge to us as Christians.

Such questions are, of course, not new. Centuries ago, around 300 years before Christ, the Greek philosopher, Epicurus, argued that if God is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving, then suffering should not exist! The Bible is full of anguished laments in the face of suffering. Job, in his innocent suffering, cries to God and questions, "Why have you put me in this state? What have I done wrong to deserve this?" Even the great saints of the Christian Church, such as St Augustine, found pain, death and suffering a conundrum, the greatest challenge to God's very existence. For the atheist, the evidence of suffering simply confirms a view that it is futile to believe in a supernatural, all-loving being we call God. For those of us who do believe in a loving God, is there an answer then to the vexing question, "Where is God in all this?"

There's a story from Russia about a priest, who spent fourteen years in a communist prison and was tortured intensely because he always preached Jesus to the other prisoners. When he was released, he met a boy on the street and said to him, "Do you believe in Jesus?" "No" said the boy, "I do not". "Why not?" replied the priest. "Well" said the boy, "you believe that Jesus is God, don't you? If Jesus is God, he ought to be able to do many things. God made elephants. Elephants make other elephants. God made trees and trees make other trees. If Jesus is God, therefore, he ought to be able to make other Jesuses. But I have never seen another Jesus. My father and mother do not care about me and treat me cruelly. My mother has never given me anything; no one has ever shown me love or given me anything... so I don't believe that Jesus is God."

What the boy said in this story was right. If Jesus is God, he ought to be able to make other Jesuses, others like him! And during this time of Covid-crisis, incredibly, this is just exactly what God is doing! How so? God entered our world in Jesus Christ, who himself underwent the suffering and more that we are currently experiencing. The Easter message of his resurrection, of new life, shows us that our sufferings will end one day, and new and greater life is promised for his followers. These followers are called to be other 'Jesuses'. In this terrible crisis, God is providing numerous opportunities for this to happen. For God is in the doctors, nurses and care workers who put their own lives at risk every day to care for their patients first. God is doing this in the sick priest in Italy, who died after refusing a life-saving breathing ventilator while in his hospital bed, so that the stranger in the adjacent bed could use it and live. God is in the 99 year-old Captain Tom, who has raised over £28 million for NHS charities. God is in those who are sacrificing themselves, in big or small ways, to help us all cope with our current pandemic. And God is in all those victims of the coronavirus, currently carrying their own crosses, praying and hoping for new life.

"Where is God in all of this?" God is standing right beside you making other Jesuses... making new saints.



Poem for the Week

Chosen by Adviser to High Schools and Academies, Helen Sage:

Emmaus

Written by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury

First the sun, then the shadow,
so that I screw my eyes to see
my friend's face, and its lines seem
different, and the voice shakes in the hot air.
Out of the rising white dust, feet
tread a shape, and, out of step,
another flat sound, stamped between voice
and ears, dancing in the gaps, and dodging
where words and feet do not fall.

When our eyes meet, I see bewilderment
(like mine); we cannot learn
this rhythm we are asked to walk,
and what we hear is not each other.
Between us is filled up, the silence
is filled up, lines of our hands
and faces pushed into shape
by the solid stranger, and the static
breaks up our waves like dropped stones.

So it is necessary to carry him with us,
cupped between hands and profiles,
so that the table is filled up, and as
the food is set and the first wine splashes,
a solid thumb and finger tear the thunderous
grey bread. Now it is cold, even indoors;
and the light falls sharply on our bones;
the rain breathes out hard, dust blackens,
and our released voices shine with water.

Church Support

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](#) or on their YouTube channel [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](#).

Pastor Matthew Clay: Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, find their channel [here](#).

Rev Toby Webber: Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

Father Andy Froud: Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene, prayers and worship online can be found [here](#).

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.

Song of the Week



Trust in You

Through times of difficulty and times of joy, we know the One in whom we can trust!

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

Daily Hope

On Sunday the Church of England launched a free dial-in worship service to bring prayer to people's homes while churches are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The national line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

Maybe you know someone who may benefit from this service?



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