

'Creativity of love can overcome isolation'

Easter Message to Parents

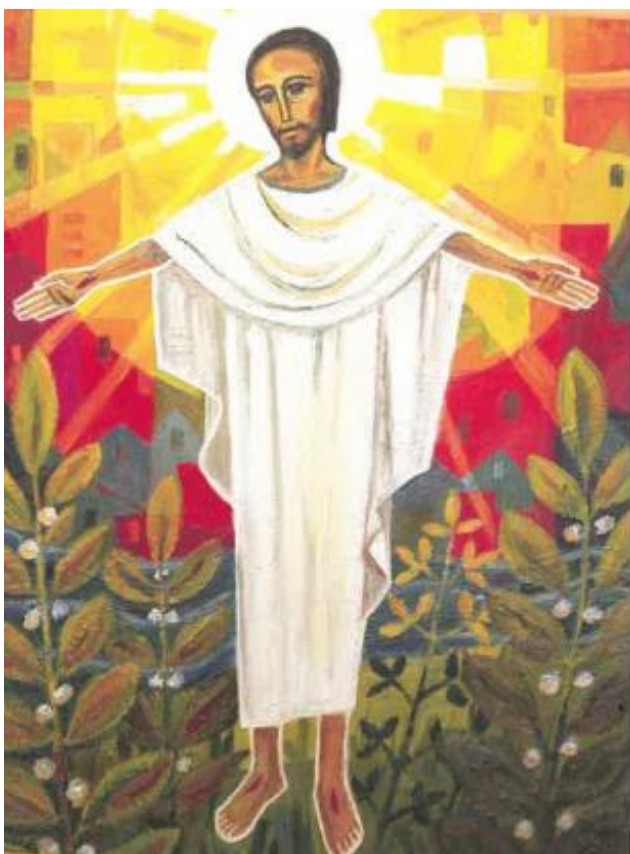
Easter is a time of great contrast, a time of both profound sorrow and joyous celebration.

On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. A time of darkness and despair. Imagine how utterly hopeless the disciples must have felt, watching Jesus die. Afterwards, they locked themselves away, in isolation, hiding in fear and despair. What a frightening day. What a dark day. What they had not understood, however, was that death was not the end. Despite the darkness of that first Good Friday, we as Christians believe that God's rescue plan for humanity was being played out, even though people didn't understand the significance of what was happening at the time. Jesus died so that our sins would be forgiven and our relationship with God could be mended.



Easter Sunday, by complete contrast, is about light, hope and new beginnings as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. On that first Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again, meeting his friends face-to-face and bringing them indescribable joy!

The Bible tells us, that over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to more than 500 people, face-to-face; talking with them, eating with them, laughing with them and encouraging them. For us, the message of Easter is very simple. God offers each of us forgiveness and an opportunity to know him, all because of the death of his son Jesus. Not only that, he also offers us hope – hope for the dark and difficult times in life, but also hope that death is not the end, that one day we will see him face-to-face too.



"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world. Everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope" - Pope Francis

As we journey closer to Easter it is hard to believe that life has changed so much for us all. It is rapidly becoming a cliché, but we are indeed living in extraordinary times. The word 'Isolation' takes on a new meaning as many of us are now experiencing this, both on a personal and social level. Maintaining a sense of community is a challenge and is requiring us to change and adapt how we relate to one another when we cannot meet face-to-face.

Over the last couple of weeks, digital innovation has demonstrated that creativity of love can reach beyond the boundaries of isolation. The creativity and love shown towards each other has been inspiring! The support and encouragement shown towards our front line services, the charity offered to our most vulnerable, the selfless caring of the sick in our communities and the many children rainbows and messages that are appearing on social media and living room windows sends out a message of hope to all of us during these worrying times.

Spring is flourishing all around us and we are rapidly approaching Easter; but we all know that this Easter is going to be different. We cannot meet face-to-face, and many of us are facing difficult and challenging situations. However, Easter is a time to remember that Christ is alive, he is always with us and that creativity of love can overcome isolation.

On behalf of all at St Mary Magdalen's I wish you a joyful and holy Easter.

God Bless,

Mr. L. J. Duncan (Headteacher)

Prayer for the outbreak

