

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope that everyone is well. This is a challenging time for all as our school remains closed to keep everyone safe. However while we may not be in school we will continue to do everything that we can to support all in our school community. We are all in this together and we will get through it together!

When the schools reopen, the teachers will ensure that learning resumes and any time lost is made up. In the meantime, the priority is to keep everyone safe and well, both physically and mentally. Teachers will be sending you suggested weekly work lists for pupils and there are numerous resources and suggestions listed on our website. Teachers will also be keeping in touch with pupils so that they do not feel isolated. Pupils should feel free to do as much or as little as wished. Don't forget to enjoy some family time together and have some fun! This is good for everyone's wellbeing! Also don't forget to ask your children to help you by doing some chores!

Remember that this crisis will pass. In the meantime we are here to support you in any way that we can. You can contact us through our new email address info@ourladysgns.ie

I will leave the final word to Ballinteer native Br. Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap:

“Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Br. Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap

March 13th 2020”

Stay safe and stay well everyone, and remember that we are here to support you.

Yvonne Lane