

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Celebrating our Week— Easter Special

Friday 10th April 2020

A Thought for Easter!!

The Easter Story can be dramatic in many ways. For example one Easter a rather large parish decided to reenact the Easter Story. Now, we often hear about cute stories about Nativities but not so much about Easter. After all, I don't think Yr R and Yr 1 would be very good at acting out the crucifixion on Good Friday or the event preceding the Crucifixion. They would need therapy for years!!

But back to the reenactment—loud glorious music was blaring out of a PA system and a young man in a long white robe jumped out of the tomb only to be flattened by a burly Roman guard!! Everyone looked shocked as the Glorious Jesus was laid out on the ground!! The narrator stumbled and came to a stop. Jesus who had been truly winded was slowly getting back up and the tough Roman Guard apologised at misjudging his guard duty. People who were not familiar with the Easter Story looked both impressed and bewildered. A stressed Vicar stepped forward and explained that the Romans surrounded the tomb of Jesus so his followers couldn't steal His dead body.



Easter is a time when we reflect on the costly grace of God - God in Jesus suffered, lost all died and then rose again. Jesus lost everything to pay for our sins, not to a vengeful God but to a God who loved us so very much. Jesus suffered and died so that he knew what it was to be a human. I know it's a stark thought but death by Crucifixion was actually normally by suffocation and could have lasted up to a few days for really strong people!! Jesus was 'lucky' in that he'd been beaten so badly he had no strength. But all this pain and sorrow and suffering which we can relate to is not foreign to God. Out of Love Jesus knew it all too well. Easter tells us that our story, the story of our loved ones who have died does not end in defeat or painful loss. No Easter reminds us that God in Jesus redeems all things. He brings to life that which was dead. He calls us to a homeland in Heaven and then on the last day to be part of the Kingdom in the New Earth.

This Easter is very different than most we've known but please be assured and aware that you are all in my prayer as are your loved ones who have gone to God. As are your children and friends who have a future ahead of them. The thing for all of us to remember is that God does love all of us including our family members who have died. As Billy Graham said, *"God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'"*

Graham is so right. God loves all of us. And Basil Hume spoke of another gift. Christians are called to love but also we're called to be people of Hope. Hume said. *"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."*

Easter is difficult in some ways for children to understand. But it's also difficult for adults. Easter says that Christian must be Christ-like that means emptying ourselves so as to serve lovingly all people as Jesus did. Christians aren't called to be judgmental, holier than thou sorts. We're called to humbly and joyfully love. The best example today is to look at all the men and women who are working tirelessly for our NHS as it cares for all patients. Especially those suffering from the Coronavirus. These people are self - emptying, these people are humble and often joyful. I finish with words of Bede Griffiths *"God had brought me to my knees and made me acknowledge my own nothingness, and out of that knowledge I had been reborn. I was no longer the centre of my life and therefore I could see God in everything."*

May I wish you all a very happy, blessed and safe Easter. Alleluia!!

Rev. Stephen Monk

Domestic Abuse

Where to get help during the **Covid-19 Pandemic**

We know that COVID-19 (Coronavirus) will have a serious impact on the lives of women, children and men who are experiencing domestic abuse. Fears over jobs, financial pressure, school closures, working from home and all the other current changes to our day to day lives are likely to result in an increase in domestic abuse incidents. If you're already living with domestic abuse, then the restrictions put in place while the government tries to slow the spread of the virus have probably left you fearful of being isolated in the house with your abuser and as if there is nowhere to go for help.

You may not be able to see the friends and family who usually support you, and some of the places where you go for help or treatment may be closed or offering a reduced service. Please remember that you can still call 999 if you or someone else is in danger.

Whilst some domestic abuse support services are not able to offer face to face meetings at this time, there is still help and advice available online and over the phone. These local and national organisations are working hard to ensure they can still support you.

Derby City Domestic Abuse Service – **0800 085 3481**

Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Service – **0800 019 8668**

National Domestic Abuse Helpline – **0808 200 0247**

Men's Advice Line – **0808 801 0327**

Rape and Sexual Violence Services – **01773 746 115**

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – **0800 999 428**.

If you're a child or young person and domestic abuse is happening in your home or relationship, then call Childline on **0800 1111**.

 **101** in an emergency
always call 999
www.derbyshire.police.uk



@DerbysPolice

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Keeping healthy and well during these difficult times. Staying healthy and active is still really important during the coronavirus pandemic. Just because you can't go to the gym or take part in a fitness class doesn't mean that there's nothing you can do though. There's lots of alternatives you can do from home. It's also important to look after your mental health too. Try following Derbyshire County Council's 'Five ways to wellbeing' - evidence suggests there are 5 steps you can take to help improve your mental health and wellbeing.

- **Connect.** There are lots of ways to connect with friends and family without being in the same place—skype, whatsapp and email to name but a few. Why not arrange to call your friends at the same time you would have normally met?
- **Get active—even while you can't go to the gym, there are still lots of ways to stay active.** Try an online fitness class or go for a walk or a cycle ride (just remember to stay 2 meters apart).
- **Learn something new—or dust off an old hobby such as an instrument, learning a language or painting and drawing.**
- **Give to others—perhaps take half an hour out of your day to chat on the phone or online to someone who is anxious, stressed or lonely? Lots of organisations are setting up community support.**
- **Take notice—take time for some calm reflection.** It may feel hard at the minute but it is really important to pause and take a breath once in a while.

For more information, advice or help please visit www.mind.org.uk/coronavirus or visit the Health & Wellbeing pages of Derbyshire County Council.

Have your circumstances changed due to the Coronavirus?

You may be eligible for additional help. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you are in receipt of specified benefits. In addition, during this time of crisis, low-income families whose children are eligible for free school meals will be offered vouchers, food or meals to make sure they continue receiving support, even if they are no longer attending school due to the coronavirus outbreak. School is able to give qualifying families food packages or vouchers for local supermarkets or shops, which will be sent directly to qualifying families who are either self-isolating at home or whose schools are closed on government advice.

If you think that this may apply to you and your family please contact the school in confidence or apply directly to Derbyshire County Council on their website (search School Meals Pupil Premium).