



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Bristol Road
Portishead
North Somerset
BS20 6QB
☎ 01275 848367

Headteacher: Mrs E Jackson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr G Bath
E-mail: office@st-josephs.org.uk
Website: www.st-josephs.org.uk

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

May is always a beautiful time of year as we cross into warmer months and promise of renewal with all the wonders of nature around us. It is surprising how small things mean so much to us now. I have been admiring the trees from my window and thinking how beautiful they look all the different colours of green and copper.

Thank you for continuing with your home schooling, I have been having a peek in your virtual classrooms and can see that you have all been very busy with lots of projects and returning work to your teachers, so well done.

May is also the month of Mary and we know that there were times when she was never sure where her life would take her, she prayed to God to look after her and her family. God didn't always answer her prayers, I am sure of that, but she kept faith with God and understood that there was always a plan. I know there will be a plan for us, so keep having faith and pray to Mary this month for extra strength.

Church news

We continue to offer a daily assembly/prayer time for primary age children at 9.40 on weekdays and Childrens Liturgy at 10.30 on Sundays.

Do contact me for the zoom link if you'd like to join us.

frtom@josephfrancis.org.uk

Mass continues to be livestreamed daily at midday at josephfrancis.org/livestream. Following the success of the trial, we are continuing to use Boxcast as our provider for this. Many people have reported improved quality of viewing as a result. We are thinking about offering streaming via app on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV. If this would be of interest let us know so that we can make a decision.



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."



Following a suggestion made at the Portishead Pastoral Team meeting, we are offering an hour's virtual adoration every Thursday from 9 to 10pm, beginning **this evening**. This will be at josephfrancis.org/livestream and across our social media channels.

We are asking parishioners if they might be willing to record a short video about their faith and relationship with Jesus. This will then be shared on our website and social media channels. My hope is that it will have **three main effects**:

1. Help our parishioners to grow in friendship and communion with each other in this Diocesan Year of Communion, as we get to know each other and share our faith with each other.
2. Have an impact on the many people who are searching and exploring faith or on the margins of the Church and engaging with our social media channels at present.
3. Better reflect the reality of the parish in our digital output – at present most of this is generated by me and it would be great to have some different voices.

If you'd be interested in taking part, do let me know so I can send you details. We'll start showing the videos at 9pm on Sunday.

Our regular rosary group continues to meet at 2pm on Tuesdays. Unfortunately, Virgin Media crashed nationwide last Monday evening, causing us to have problems with the evening session. We are continuing to work out the best times to offer additional opportunities to pray the rosary and will meet again at 6pm on Monday to pray together and make a decision on this. Both opportunities continue to be at <https://zoom.us/j/376494958>.

Portishead Foodbank - Food Donations to No4 Combe Road, it is open between 9am-12noon to receive them. And distribution from No4, Friday 12noon-2pm including Bank holidays.

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal today. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal. A video of the appeal is available at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising>.

There is an interesting Catholic family conference beginning tomorrow. Full programme at catholicfamilyconference.com

I thought it might be useful to remind people of the mental health support offered by Mind - 020 8519 2122 or www.mind.org.uk a national charity supporting those with mental health concerns. They also have a specific helpline for parents concerned about a young person youth section - **Parents Helpline** – call 0808 802 5544

Young Minds -Young person looking for help and support Text the YoungMinds Crisis Messenger, for free 24/7 support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need urgent help text YM to 85258. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors.



Christians Together in and around Backwell are hosting a virtual Christian Aid service at 6.15pm on 10 May. Let me know if you'd like to participate so that we can send details to the organisers.

Yours in Christ

Fr Tom

News from Gordano

Year 6 Transition to Gordano for September 2020 intake

We just wanted to reassure all parents of current Year 6 students who are due to join us at Gordano in September that we are continuing to work very hard to ensure that their transition to Gordano is as smooth and reassuring as possible. However, in the present circumstances, we have had to change the way we are supporting our new children and their parents and carers. Please note the following changes to the published programme:

- The information evening for new parents on 5th May has been cancelled
- We are currently putting the Year 7 tutor groups together and hope to send out this information before the end of May
- We are looking at the possibility of running some parental information evenings in July, provided that we can do so in line with guidance from Public Health England
- We are discussing a range of alternative induction days for Year 6 children in July, if the planned Induction Day cannot go ahead on 7th July

Thank you for your understanding and patience at this difficult time. We will update the website with any further developments as they arise.

Kind Regards

Mr Adam Snow

Assistant Head Teacher

Safeguarding

There are many different sites to help you keep your child on-line safe. These are some of the Government recommendations.

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers



Chartwell News- Cooking at home

Chartwells are pleased to introduce: **The Super Yummy Kitchen - Food, play and education brought to your home.**



Our cook along videos have launched with new feature's on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's. Please visit our [youtube channel](#) to cook with our chef Andrew.

The videos will not only help keep the nation's children entertained, but provide them with yummy, **healthy** snacks made using ingredients from their **store cupboard**.

The super yummy kitchen has been designed to support healthier snacking, positive mental wellbeing and the chance to learn new skills, alongside a health and wellbeing challenge and supporting schools to meet curriculum requirements at home.

Please find the Unicorn Hummus video [here](#) and we have attached another one of the featured recipes (Barry Bean Cheesy Mash Muffins) as a PDF document for you.

Music News- message from Mrs Page

If you haven't done so already, please join Music Classroom on your Google Classroom screen you just need to click 'Join'. There are lots of fun music ideas and things to do, you can return work and videos to Mrs page-she has had fun looking at them. Mrs Page has been a bit disappointed that many of you have not joined and she would like to see as many of you as possible joining in.



School web site

Please keep an eye on the school web site there will be regular Government updates that you will be sign posted to. There are also extra resources for home schooling and prayer, please go to parents/covid 19.

New Reception parents

If your child is starting reception in September 2020 there is some new information to help you on the web site-please go to Parents/new reception parents 2020-2021. There are website links to being ready for school and Miss Johnson has put a lovely book together with pictures of the school, teachers and classroom. Please have a look- we are hoping to get Tapestry (e learning diary) up and running earlier than normal for new children. We will keep you posted on developments for transition on the web site.

If you have any queries or you need help for any reason please e mail the office rather than phone as your message may not be picked up.

If you are having difficulties logging on or have forgot your password, you can e mail Mr Bath and he will help you out.

greg.bath@stjoes.org.uk

Thank you again for all your support, especially with the home schooling, stay safe and look after one another.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson

'REMEMBER, O most gracious mother Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, my Mother; to you do I come; before you I stand, sad and sorrowful. O Mother of Jesus in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.'