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Date: Friday 10th July 2020

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Reflection

Westminster Abbey in London has been used for the coronation of kings and queens. Also held there have been the funerals of members of the Royal Family and great public figures. Some of the spaces above the main entrance of Westminster Abbey have been filled with statues of modern day saints – unveiled on this day in 1998 in the presence of many church leaders from across the world. It's a very imaginative idea, not least because the statues are of people from different Christian traditions. They include:

1. Maximilian Kolbe of Poland, a Catholic priest who volunteered to take the place of a married man condemned to death in Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1941.
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran Minister who was part of a plot to kill Hitler, and who was executed by the Nazis in 1945,
3. Martin Luther King, a Baptist minister and black civil rights campaigner, assassinated in the United States in 1969.
4. Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero, gunned down at the altar as he celebrated Mass in his cathedral in El Salvador in 1980.
5. Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwano, shot in 1977 in Idi Amin's Uganda.

Let us pray;

Loving Lord,

These individuals we have heard about were ordinary people. They spent years making choices each day about small ordinary things.

Their positive and life-giving attitude eventually led to serious decisions about standing with the poor and the underprivileged and those treated unjustly.

Inspire us Lord, to choose wisely in small things, inspire us with courage and generosity when we must make more important decisions.

Amen

Today we are called to make small decisions; to smile at a neighbour, support a charity, give help to someone in need. Who would have thought that we would have to make a decision about whether to send our children to school!

When we make decisions we need to always try to look at the bigger picture. What impact will our decisions make, on an individual, the wider community and even society as a whole? We should turn to Jesus when decisions become difficult. He will always help and guide us.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEAR SIX END OF TERM CELEBRATIONS: We have tried to make this time as fun as possible. It certainly will be memorable. In years to come our children will say to each other, "do you remember when we couldn't go to school?"

We do understand that not only are the children missing out but so are you as parents. We have set up a secure folder on the website which will be password protected. In here we will save some of the events that the children have taken part in over the past few weeks. This will include the end of year BBQ a video of the Play and the video of the children's memories. These will be protected files and you are asked not to download them. We will keep this file on the website for a long time. You will be sent a password before the end of term. You are asked not to share this with anyone else.

END OF YEAR MASS: Please join us for the live streaming of the end of year Mass next Tuesday 14th July at 2pm. **ALL year 6 pupils only are invited to attend the Mass.** This will be held in the Church and very strict social distancing measures will be put in place. Unfortunately the church does not have capacity to invite parents to this but please watch the live stream. For those parents of year 6 pupils who are at home but would like to attend, to enable you to watch the Mass please bring your child to the side door of the Church at 1.45pm.

You may collect your child from the church after the Mass has finished. We will wait for you to give you time to get back after the Mass has ended. All children currently attending school will be brought to the Church and will return to school at the end. They will be dismissed in the normal way.

The rest of the school will be watching the Mass live. Please join us so that, as a community, we can celebrate together.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS:

Please note **that the last day of term for most children attending school is Thursday 16th July (full day) and Friday 17th July at 1.30pm** for key workers and year 6. To clarify all those children in year 6 who are currently attending school will be invited in for the morning of the last Friday, 17th July.

I would really like to be able to say goodbye to any year 6 parents especially those families who will not be returning to school. However I will be attending the funeral of a close family friend on Friday so will be leaving school at 11am. I will be in the playground at the end of most days next week and at the gate each morning for a quick goodbye and good luck if you will be dropping off or collecting your children.

Our first day back for children in year 1 to 6 is Thursday 3rd September.

SAFEGUARDING: The advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER: We have now had guidance from the DFE and the local authority about re-opening in September. There is an expectation that all schools will be fully open to all children from the beginning of September and that all children are sent to school. This has been a very worrying time for parents and I know that some parents are still apprehensive about sending their children back to school. I would like to re-assure you that we are confident in our ability to put in all the necessary

safeguards to maximise safety within the school. We are currently providing on site education for over 180 pupils. Our staggered starts and finish times have been extremely successful in supporting social distancing for our families dropping off and collecting children. Our one way systems and processes in school have ensured that the 'bubbles' do not mix. All our children and staff continue to be safe and healthy. We believe that we will be able to include small additions to our current procedures to be able to accommodate all our children in September.

Our first priority is the well-being of all the children. We have found that those children who are back at school are flourishing. They are keen to be back in school and any signs of anxiety have quickly receded. However additional support will be on hand if needed.

Our second priority is the children's learning and progressing. All staff will be trained in Google Classroom to increase our capacity for online learning should this be necessary.

The children's engagement with their learning at home has been amazing and everyone, especially parents, should be very proud of themselves. Because of this we anticipate that most of learning in the first weeks/month will be consolidating the summer term topics rather than re-teaching them. We will be working to identify any gaps in learning for individuals and groups and will be using carefully planned interventions to plug these gaps.

More information will be provided next week and during August. Please remember to check your emails.

EALING MUSIC SERVICE FESTIVAL



On **Friday 10th July** when we should have all been at Gunnersbury Park for our first ever EMStival, we have decided to give you a flavour of some of the acts you would have seen on the day and invite you all to **EMStival online**

Live on Facebook for FREE @ 18:30, Friday 10th July– all you have to do is like our page



<https://www.facebook.com/WeAreEMS>

KEEPING IN TOUCH: If you have any queries or would like to speak to a member of staff you can, once again, phone the school between 8am and 3.30pm. Emails continue to be monitored. If you have a concern that we cannot help you with directly we will be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

May God keep you safe from harm today and always!

Miss K. Coll / Headteacher

Our Lady of the Visitation Church

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>

search: *'Visitation Church Greenford'*

Following the message from Cardinal Vincent last weekend, we are preparing to celebrate Masses where a congregation is present, from Saturday 4th July. We would ask you to please bear with us as we take this important step. The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is suspended until further notice, you can attend any Mass in person, or online if you are unable to leave the house.

If you are in any of the "at risk" groups, please STAY HOME.

Mass will still be celebrated at 12.00 noon every day and shown live on the internet. *Please note:* that you **do not** have to sign up for Facebook, you simply go to the parish website (search: *'Visitation Church Greenford'*) and follow the links.

Weekend Masses

Saturday	12.00 noon and 7.00 pm
Sunday	8.00 am, 10.00 am and 12.00 noon

Sadly, there will be NO congregational singing.

Daily Mass at 12.00 noon will be also shown live on the Internet (via Facebook)

Each day the church will be open for private prayer and Mass from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

We will still have to observe social distancing advice (1 metre +)
and the **wearing of face coverings is compulsory.**

Toilet facilities will not be available.

The three most important rules are:

- 1. Safety**
- 2. Safety**
- 3. Safety**

Planned Giving envelopes will be available in the Old Church Hall after all the weekend Masses.