



A Pastoral Letter to all Head Teachers & CMATS - Holy Week 2020

6th April 2020

Dear Headteacher,

As these days of Lent draw ever closer to the great Feast of Easter, I wanted to take this opportunity to write and offer my heartfelt thanks to you, and to all the members of your staff, for your outstanding, creative and compassionate work during these difficult and uncertain weeks.

I very much appreciate that, in a very short period of time, you have been called to carry out a quite different role from that which you would normally be undertaking as the Lent Term comes to an end. I have no doubt that you have needed to make many changes to your planning and organisation, and that this has involved much personal sacrifice. I am also very aware of some of the challenges our schools currently face. You are now, during this Coronavirus pandemic, making available a safe place for children of those parents who are providing vital care and treatment to others, keeping supply chains open or working in other essential areas of our country's economy, and also for our most vulnerable children. Thank you!

I am so proud to see the Catholic schools in our diocese living out, in these generous and creative ways, their identity and mission as beacons of hope founded on the words and actions of Christ who said: 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:41).

I also wish to thank Peter Giorgio and the staff of our Diocesan Education Service, as well as the staff of our Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts, who have been a source of tremendous leadership and support for you all. Working in new and innovative ways, and with so many directives and policies being issued from all sides, I applaud all they have done to help create a little stability during these uncertain times.

Please know that you, your colleagues, school communities and, in particular, your own families, are very much in my prayers.

May these days of darkness be illuminated by the inextinguishable light of the Risen Christ. May you, and all those whom you care for and love, come to know, in a quite particular way this Easter, the peace and joy of the presence of the Risen Christ in your hearts and lives.

With much gratitude and prayer,

+ Patrick

Right Reverend Patrick McKinney
Bishop of Nottingham