



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 16 July 2021

The God who heals (Luke 4:38-39)

Leaving the synagogue, Jesus went to Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him to do something for her. Leaning over her he rebuked the fever and it left her. She immediately got up and was healed. We all need a bit of healing! Hopefully, the summer will allow us some time for rest and recovery. In this Gospel, Jesus asked no questions. God heals without concern about who we are or what is in our past. We simply need to believe that ourselves, and those whom we are close to, can be healed. Just ask for a little faith. This is sometimes a tough call but be still for a moment and accept the love of God.

Dear Lord

Thank you for saving me.

Thank you that you already know my heart.

Heal me, Lord

Amen.

Dear Parents and Carers

Another year like no other!

May I commend you and your children for the outstanding way in which you have coped throughout the tremendous stresses and strains of this school year. People who have not had to home educate their children through a pandemic will never understand what you have gone through. Typically, you have had to do all of this while trying to work yourselves from home; sharing often unstable but vital internet connections and trying to be in all places at all times while being all things to all people. This has been hard, but you have prevailed and should feel rightly proud of yourselves and your children.

I often reflect that children are far more adaptable, and forgiving than adults. We see the implications and worry far more about what may go wrong. We are relieved when nothing does then go wrong but the anxiety rests with us to a far greater extent than it does for the vast majority of our children. Your love and positive encouragement for your children has very much helped them and therefore all of us through the challenges we have faced together. Look back and know that you tried your very best; that is all we can do.

Within school that is what we have all done. We don't always get everything right, but we have tried very hard and done our best for you. Your letters and messages of support for our efforts with live lessons and provision during lockdown were overwhelming and very much appreciated. As you know, those teachers and support staff who were working to provide for your child very often were home schooling their own children as they were working with yours.

There will be things that we continue to do differently as a result of what we have learned; online parent evenings may be one such example. In September we are very likely to be continuing with our current routines of mask wearing, one-way systems and sanitising. We shall keep you posted should anything change from our current routines.

We were thrilled this week to have three major events in the life of our school take place which have not featured for two years or more: Sports Day, Rewards Day and our Whole School Mass of thanksgiving. School is about so much more than GCSEs and these events and others are the life blood of a strong school community. Our Sports Day was blessed with wonderful weather and was a tremendous day of challenge, competition and wonderful teamwork, underpinned by some very moving examples of love and support. The additional lap run by those who had finished the 1500m race so that they could help round one of their year group who was struggling was a sight that I shall remember for a long time. Rewards Day was showered on with rain, but it did not matter. Everyone dressed in PE kit and being totally up for the challenge of all of the It's a Knockout inflatable obstacle courses was a first for us at school. It was also a great success, despite the weather. Finally, our Whole School Mass, held outside for the first time, was a picture of joy and celebration. Our whole school community gathered together in

thanksgiving and praise of God. We are so very grateful to Fr Mario for being our Principal Celebrant; to all of the people who assisted with the huge task of setting up and organising and to all of our pupils who took part so very well.

We say a fond farewell to a number of staff as they move on to explore other opportunities, are promoted to new roles on other schools or who are retiring following many years of dedicated service. We pay particular tribute to Mary Tuson (Director of the Catholic Teaching Alliance), Carmel Waszczuk (Learning Support Manager) and Michelle Morris (Learning Manager and Principal Teacher of Drama). Between them they have accrued over 60 years of service at our school, and they are each retiring at the end of this school year. So many pupils and families have had their lives touched and enhanced by their work and our school has been truly blessed to have had their dedicated service for so many years.

I should also like to pay tribute to the other colleagues who are leaving us this year for pastures new.

Mrs Best	Teacher of Drama	Business Venture
Miss Barker	Teacher of Science	Relocation
Miss Clarkson	Business Support Officer	CTA Teacher Training
Mr Hefferan	Senior ICT Technician	St Bede's, Ormskirk
Miss McHale	Learning Support Assistant	CTA Teacher Training
Mr Nelson	Assistant Headteacher	St Cecilia's

So, thank you to all of you for your tremendous support over the past year. I wish for all of you a restful and safe summer break and we look forward to seeing all of our pupils return in September.

Mr N Ranson
Headteacher

READING NEWSLETTER

Attached is the Summer Reading Newsletter filled with recommendations, tips and competitions.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Fancy a Holiday? Soon you may be able to take one to space. Richard Branson has taken the first passenger flight to the edge of space. Click the link to find out more. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57798167>



[Watch: The carrier plane releases Unity to begin a test ascent](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57798167)
The BBC tracks the long, winding road to Sir Richard Branson's flight to the edge of space.
www.bbc.co.uk

PRACTICALS FROM HOME

This week's practical is one to keep you busy over the summer. Short of garden chairs? Get involved with this STEM task and build your own cardboard chairs.

Dates to remember

Thursday, 2 September – Year 7 and 11 pupils return to school

Friday, 3 September – all pupils return to school

Friday, 8 October – INSET day

Friday, 22 October – School closes for half-term

Thursday, 16 December – School closes for Christmas at 12.45 pm