



St. Colman's Primary School  
and  
All Saints' Nursery Unit  
(Annaclone)

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*Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence*



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## EASTER MESSAGE

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear families, staff and governors,

I hope that you and your family are all healthy, and are coping well with the challenging circumstances that we are going through. I have been so pleased to see so many pictures and videos of the children making the best of this difficult time and continuing with their education at home. Witnessing the school and home coming together in a supportive and child-centred partnership has once more made me feel both humbled and very proud to be Principal in St. Colman's and All Saints, Annaclone.

When we as a staff set your children work, challenges and online tasks, it is with one expectation only; *that the wellbeing and mental health of your family are to come first*. After the Easter break continue to do what is manageable for you and your family. The structure and content provided is intended to be for guidance and is not compulsory; it is intended to be helpful and not burdensome.

Pope Francis celebrated an extraordinary ritual recently at the Vatican. The pope prayed for an end of the epidemic and delivered his homily against the dramatic backdrop of an empty St. Peter's Square. The pope's "**Urbi et Orbi**" (To the City and the World) blessing, normally delivered at Christmas and Easter, was livestreamed on social media and broadcast on television and radio. **"We find ourselves afraid and lost," Pope Francis said. "We were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented ... all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."** We need to reach out to each other and know that Christ will guide us through these uncertain and difficult times. Having faith and being called to serve is more important than ever. Easter will be very different this year for us all.

To all the pupils, I really miss you. You have made me smile, as I have been able to see what you have been up to at home via Dojo, Google Classroom,



Zoom Conferencing, Social Media and the class pages on the website. It is heart-warming to observe brothers and sisters learning and playing together. Keep this up but remember to have a well-deserved break over the holidays. With social distancing, it is a time for families to spend more time together being creative, exercising together, playing board games and enjoying each other's company. Often it is the simple pleasures in life that are forgotten, as we are always too busy or in a hurry to realise what is truly important.

To all my colleagues in the Nursery Unit and Primary School, you have been magnificent. Many of you are juggling remote working, trying to home educate your own children, staying in contact with the children/families that you teach, providing pedagogical/technological support to those who need it most and like everyone else, living under the grey cloud of being unable to visit friends and family. I am sure that in years to come people will be able to hand on heart say of you, that when things were at their worst, you were at your best. The ethos of St. Colman has never been more tangible than in the current outworking of your vocation. Thank you very much for all of your work.

May I also take the time to thank the Governors and Trustees of the school for their wisdom, resolute support and guidance over the last month. I am very appreciative of the time, service, care and attention that you give to our school community. The work that you do enables the school to succeed, the children to thrive and often passes unnoticed in the wider world. None of us underestimate what a great responsibility this is.

I sincerely look forward to seeing you all healthy and well as soon as possible. I want to wish you all a holy and peaceful Easter. Keep safe and look after each other, as well as those in our local communities who may need our help. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K O'Neill

Principal