



the Maximilian

Monthly Newsletter for Governors from the Education Commission

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elcome... *The Maximilian* is a monthly newsletter from the Education Commission to all categories of governors in our schools, highlighting changes in legislation and other news which will be of help to governing bodies.

Lockdown- Fr Richard Hendrick OFM 13th March 2020

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the house-
bound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their

neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new
reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live
now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Governor training on your smartphone or PC

Firm Foundations:

We would like to remind you to make good use of the governors' training opportunity provided by our app "Firm Foundations". This brings training direct to your smartphone and PC. There are currently 25 modules available for you. The priority would be to complete the one called 'Faithful Governance' (there is an equivalent for governors within Multi Academy Trust called 'Faithful Governance: MATs'). These were written by us for governors of Catholic schools and academies. The diocese has invested in this app so that it is free for governors.

Formatio:

Catholic Education Service have developed an online training programme for governors of Catholic schools and academies. It provides themed modules on governance, from a brief history of Catholic education to the oversight of school finance. It is free for governors to register and follow the content.

The link to the website is: <http://formatio-ces.org/moodle/login/index.php>

Cancelled Courses

The Good Samaritan Mass, Governors' Conference, YEB Meetings, LA Reps Meetings and Link Headteachers Meetings are cancelled.

Please visit the [events & courses page on the website](#) to be kept up to date.

Education Commission Offices

There is currently a skeleton staff operating at the Education Commission offices. If your query is urgent please call 07772730974 and your call will be directed to the relevant person.

Please visit our website to view the latest Covid-19 updates: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/covid-19/>

School Governance Update – COVID-19- 25th March 2020

Below is a link to the latest departmental and government advice on the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and how this relates to the role of those on governing and trust boards and clerks/governance professionals. Please note that this update is relevant to both maintained schools and academies.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-march-2020?utm_source=GT&utm_medium=Em&utm_campaign=Mar

Statement re Holy Week and Good Friday

Please click here to view the statement from Dr Simon Hughes: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Statement-re-Holy-Week-and-Good-Friday.pdf>

Video Message & Statement from Archbishop John Wilson

Message to those involved in Catholic Education in Southwark Diocese from Archbishop John Wilson 23rd March 2020: <https://youtu.be/VVHKTgclRg>

To the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Southwark following the Prime Minister's Address to the Nation concerning the Coronavirus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ

In his Address to the Nation the Prime Minister outlined the necessary steps that we must now take to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. The Government has mandated the 'closure of all shops selling non-essential goods, including clothing and electronic stores, and other premises including libraries, playgrounds and outdoor gyms, and places of worship.'

This means that, until further notice, and with immediate effect, all the churches and chapels within the Archdiocese of Southwark, together with their associated halls, must now close their doors to the public. This policy must be implemented without exception. It is imperative that we, the clergy, consecrated religious, and laity of the Archdiocese of Southwark, comply fully with these directives. This is an essential component of our contribution to fighting the Coronavirus and living out the Lord Jesus' commandment to 'love our neighbour.' (Mk 12:31)

Given that our priests live adjacent to their churches, there will still be the private celebration of Mass each day, but there must be no additional people present other than the priest himself. The doors to all our churches and chapels must remain permanently locked until these restrictions are lifted.

The Prime Minister also stated that all social events, including weddings, baptisms and other ceremonies, but excluding funerals, must cease. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have already put in place restrictive measures in relation to baptisms, marriages and funerals which must continue to be followed.

Although we are socially isolate from each other, we are not isolate from Christ. Now is a time to strengthen our spiritual bonds of connection through personal prayer and the intensification of our inner relationship with Christ. We will continue to use social media to sustain our communal online presence, with the live-streaming of Mass and devotions from different churches within our Archdiocese and beyond. For the time being, our buildings must close; but our hearts must open wider, expanding with love for Christ and others.

Dear friends, the yearning in our hearts for the Eucharist and for fellowship with one another must sustain us until we come, once more, to gather at the altar to offer together the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We take inspiration from the Apostle St Paul writing to the first Christians in Rome: '...hardship develops perseverance, perseverance develops character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint, since the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.' (Rom 5:3-5) We are people of profound hope. We will remain firm in faith and generous in charity, through Christ the 'hope of glory,' alive within us. (cf. Col 1:27)

Let us pray for all those working to overcome the effects of the Coronavirus and all those affected by it. Please also be sure of my prayers for you, for your families and for your loved ones. And, please, pray for me and all your bishops, priest, and deacons, who hold you in their hearts and prayers.

With every blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ

The Most Reverend John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark
Given at Archbishop's House, Southwark, 23 March 2020