

Friday  
3rd April  
2020



CARLISLE  
DIOCESE

## Stars and Sky

Last night we were out in the garden, ringing an old bell and clapping in support of the NHS. Above us stars peppered the darkness, competing with my son's flashing torch. We could see the Plough and Orion. Even in the noise, there was a moment of wonder as we contemplated the vastness of the night sky.

At the weekend we went for our daily walk. The children on their scooters, my husband on his bike. Lots had changed in the landscape since my last walk pre-isolation. Daffodils eagerly turned towards the sun, magnolias, cherry and plum

blossoms were unfurling pastel smudges against the sky. The sky itself felt bigger somehow, as if the expanse of blue was silently reminding us to look up and beyond ourselves, even as we dodged two metres round others.

Sky and stars invoke in me a kind of calm, a reminder that I am small, the universe is large and, despite my life's disruptions and disappointments, the world keeps turning. Somewhere underneath these thoughts is something deeper too, an understanding that I am not in control of this thing called life, a keener appreciation of my dependency. That in the suffering, I can lift my face to the sky and know God's there.

A long time ago, Abraham sat under a glittering night sky somewhere in Canaan. God had just told him that he would be father to a great nation, his descendants outnumbering the stars. Abraham was an old man by this time and had spent his life wandering, waiting for God to bring him to a new land. I think he must have wondered more than once if he was mad to have chosen to trust God. He was old, and still no sign of this 'promised land'. Could/should he trust God's most recent, laughable idea that an ancient old couple could be parents?

We know how the story rolls. Under the stars Abraham acknowledged the creator of the universe and he made a choice. Abraham, despite his doubts, chose to trust. He chose hope over despair. The future promise over the present situation. He said yes to God and God stepped into the gaps in his life, the place and space of suffering, breathing promise, hope and life.

So as you walk outside today, look up to the vastness of the sky. Tonight, look for the stars from your window. We don't know how all this is going to turn out. But God does, and with God all things are possible.

And so we say our 'yes' to God, and press on.

God bless you, and all those you love,

Email: [education@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlislediocese.org.uk)



## Resources Round Up

Like you we are being e-mailed daily with information, updates and resources, some of which we have included on our webpages. However, our aim is to gather these together in one place at the end of the week. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to e-mail them and we will share.

### **Hub Schools, School leadership and coronavirus.**

[Advice on social distancing in education settings](#)

[Keeping your self safe—advice for teachers and teaching assistants](#)—updated 31st March 2020

[Advice on free school meals](#)

[CSCP Information for Professionals](#)

[School governance update March 2020](#)

[Remote Governance Model Policy](#)

### **School at home resources**

[Collective Daily Worship You Tube channel from NISCU](#)

[Diocese of Canterbury—'William and Lucy' Collective Worship at home](#)

[RE resources from NATRE](#)

[Kids at home singing project](#)

### **Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

We have created our own guidance around the difficult conversations many of you will need to have now and in the future with your own young people and pupils.

[Diocesan Guidance on difficult conversations with children](#)

[How to have difficult conversations with children—NSPCC](#)

[Coronavirus—Childline](#)

[CSCP Information for families](#)

[CCC Bereavement in Educational Settings](#)

### **Heads Huddles w/C 6th April**

Tuesday 7th April @ 4.30pm

Thursday 9th April @ 2.30pm

Invitations and notes from the previous meeting will be sent next week

Any queries contact [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)



## **Urgent Request**

As you are aware the need to maintain critical services and the health of keyworkers is paramount, CCC are working on an approach to co-ordinate and prioritise the allocation of PPE across the County.

Please can you let [Jean Nichol](#) know if there are any items listed below (in particular goggles and gloves) available in the schools that we can arrange to collect.

- Sterile Gloves
- Aprons (10 & 50 Microns)
- Goggles
- Shoe covers
- Masks
- Protective suits
- Hand Sanitiser
- Nitrile powder free
- Latex powder free

as soon as possible and preferably by the end of this week.

### **If you need to contact any of the team**

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Loving God, as your Son healed the sick  
And brought good news to the needy  
Be with us this day.

Loving Jesus as you taught us to  
'Do unto others as you would have them do to you'  
Be with all the medical staff this day.

Loving spirit, your gift is healing,  
Bring your healing fire to our homes, our hospitals and our county,  
But most of all, be with us this day.

Amen