

Inside Out



Friday
26th June
2020

Whilst day-dreaming at the kitchen sink the other day, the animated characters Joy and Sadness from the 2015 Pixar movie 'Inside Out' trooped, waving, across the stage of my mind. I wrote the words in my diary, thinking it may make an interesting topic to write about.

Today is Wednesday 24 June, the Feast of St. John the Baptist. In the early morning quiet, I hit play on the devotional app I listen to and heard these words from Mark 1:1-8:

"I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism – a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit – will change you from the **inside out**." (The Message)

I was overcome for a moment. Call it coincidence or a God-incident, there is something to say here about cartoon emotions from a tween's head and John the Baptist.

In Inside Out, the emotions Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust sit at the control panel HQ of their girl Riley's mind. Joy doesn't really understand the point of the other emotions, particularly Sadness. She wants to protect Riley. She thinks her mission is to keep Riley eternally happy and safe, and spends much of the film trying to prevent Sadness from getting any foothold in Riley's mind. This may remind you of certain parents you know. It certainly reminds me of me.

What Joy learns over the course of the story is that Sadness matters. Gradually Joy's understanding of what makes a whole, rich inner life is undone and remade as she learns to accept Sadness and hand over the controls. As Riley matures, so does Joy. They move together towards a fuller understanding of what life is and how we should interact with it; towards a deeper, more nuanced knowing.

Being undone and remade bring with them fear and resistance. Our egos cry out 'No! I'll be lost in the undoing!' We cling to our former ways of knowing, and being. So we fight change. We can see this now in our national discourse. We all know that change is on us, that it *should* be on us; in education and health, in our approach to social and racial injustice, in our economic structures. But change requires a quieting of the ego. It requires us to listen, really *listen*, to the Sadness of others, their Joy and Anger too, and allow these to touch us, undo us and reform us.

John's call, his 'thunder in the desert', is for change and transformation. He taught that we need to recognise our deficiencies, the flaws in our ego - our sin - and see it for what it is: an ugly barrier that stands in the way of our relationship with ourselves, with each other, and with God. John called his followers to step into the river, take a steadying breath, and then die to their old lives in a baptism of repentance. John's promise is that as our egos drown, we are brought to LIFE and into real relationship with God, ourselves and each other.

So today, on John's feast day, I wonder if we can again say YES to being undone, despite our fear and resistance to change. I'm praying we will be transformed from the Inside Out by the Holy Spirit, that as we decrease, Jesus will increase and have space to operate through us. And I'm praying that we will, together, find our way to a shared understanding of how our education system should look in the Kingdom of tomorrow - a Kingdom where truth and life, holiness and grace, justice love and peace abound.

God bless,

DIOCESAN NEWS

Heads Huddles W/C 29th June

Friday 3rd July 2020 @3pm

Come and join our conversation with Pam Weeden, coach and mentor, as we discuss balancing the demands of the covid-19 response with planning for September.

Invitations and notes from the previous meeting will be sent next week
Any queries or if you would like to receive the notes from any previous 'huddle' contact

education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

LINKS & RESOURCES



Fischy Music continue to offer free resources for schools and families at home and have just released 'We won't Stop Singing' music video which can be watched [here](#).

CDEC has developed CARE - Compassionate and Restorative Education, which is a new training course and toolkit, in response to the challenges schools are facing at the moment as a direct result of COVID-19.



CDEC
Cumbria as a Beacon
of Global Citizenship

The main aim is to support, teachers, pupils, schools and communities in a compassionate and restorative educational approach to aid transition, recovery and learning following Covid 19.

It empowers young people to become more compassionate, resilient learners and active citizens of the future.

For more information click [here](#) or e-mail Debbie Watson - debbie@cdec.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter



@CarlisleDBE

For advice and support

Schools are now supporting some staff, pupils and parents displaying symptoms of Covid 19 and having to request testing. Most testing is self administered, including sometimes for older primary pupils.

One of our headteachers shared this You Tube video which may be helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCqo7MhQT6U>

Thank you Helen Harrison at St Matthews CE School.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership and Professional Certificate for Middle Leaders in Church Schools

These qualifications consist of a 5-day programme together with an online element. They will be delivered by the five North West Dioceses, Liverpool Hope University and School Improvement Liverpool.

Accredited by the Department for Education (DfE), the National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML) involves leading a bespoke project aiming to improve pupil progress and team capability. This can be tailored to be in line with the school development plan or a stand-alone project.

Once again, DfE funding has been achieved for this course, which enables delegates to gain two substantial awards for just £300. The course comes out of a unique partnership between all 5 NW Dioceses and Liverpool Hope University and explores the distinctive nature of Christian leadership within church schools. It forms part of the NW Christian Leadership Pathway, which aims to ensure the quality as well as the quantity of future leaders in our church schools.

For further information [click here](#) and/or to register please contact:

The CPD Team

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CONTACT INFORMATION

A reminder that all our officers are working from home, and are available to support you. However, some changes have been made to our contact details and working patterns may vary while responding to demand

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