

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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St John Southworth 27th June 2020

RE: Weekly Update for all parents

Dear Parents

Our Churches are opening again and this weekend the Church in the Diocese of Westminster celebrates the Feast Day of one of its own St John Southworth (1592? - 1654). John Southworth is normally included with the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, and only in the diocese of Westminster, where he died, is his feast kept separately, on the anniversary of his execution. You can see him in Westminster Cathedral.

John Southworth was the only English martyr to suffer under a dictatorship. The English Civil War ended; the King was executed; the Elizabethan Prayer-Book outlawed; freedom of conscience proclaimed. But Catholics, who had been accused of plotting against the King, were still persecuted when there was no King; they had been fined for refusing to accept the Prayer-Book, and they were still persecuted when there was no Prayer-Book; all they asked was freedom of conscience for themselves and their countrymen, and freedom of conscience was given to everyone but them. Priests had to come and go, in secret, in fear of betrayal and death, as they had had to do for more than a generation.

John Southworth was ordained priest at the English College at Douai in 1618. After returning to England he was arrested in Lancashire in 1627 and condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment; in 1630 he was handed over, with several other priests, to the French Ambassador for transportation abroad. Whether he actually went or not seems uncertain, but he was certainly in England in 1637, when Westminster was devastated by the plague. He was seen visiting an infected house, and since there could be only one reason for anyone to visit the sick under such dangerous circumstances, he was

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

arrested and charged with being a priest. On that occasion the authorities quietly set him free and he disappeared underground once more; but such clemency enraged the Puritans, and, seventeen years later, in 1654, when they were in power, they had their revenge.

At his trial, it was open to John Southworth to plead Not Guilty to the criminal and capital charge of being a priest – most of the missionaries did, to cause as much trouble as possible to the persecutors. But Southworth did not. If he had pleaded Not Guilty, the court might have acquitted him; as it was, the judge wept as he passed sentence.

The body of John Southworth was bought from the executioner by the Spanish Ambassador, who returned it to Douai for burial. At the time of the French Revolution he was re-buried in an unmarked grave for protection. The grave was rediscovered in 1927 and the body returned to England – the only complete remains of any of the English martyrs. Upon Southworth's beatification in 1929, his relics were enshrined in Westminster Cathedral.

St John Southworth: Pray for us!

Next week we will welcome more children back for the first time since March. We are looking forward to seeing them!

Since I wrote to you last week more and more parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y6 and Key Worker parents have been in touch asking for places for their children. As you know we have to give these children priority over others because this is what the Government has said we must do. This means that from 6th July, we will be unable to offer any places to non-Key Worker children from Y2,3,4 and 5. We will continue to provide places for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as Key Workers but we can't take any other children. The maximum number of children we are allowed in each class or bubble is 15.

We are expecting the Government to publish guidance on what school will look like in September to be published in the next couple of weeks.

There have been some changes to the start and finish times for groups. Please see the charts below. Please remember not to come early or late at drop off and pick up. Try to keep 2metres from others at all times too.

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| Mon-Thurs Times | Start | Finish |
|---|-------|--------|
| 1L (Front double gates round markings) | 8:30 | 2:30 |
| 6M (Back gates) | 8:30 | 2:30 |
| 6P | 8:40 | 2:40 |
| Squirrels (Back gates) | 8:45 | 11:45 |
| 1M (Front double gates round markings) | 8:45 | 2:45 |
| KW2C (Front double gates X) | 8:55 | 2:55 |
| Llamas (Back gates) | 9:00 | 3:00 |
| KW2G (Front Double gates X) | 9:00 | 3:00 |
| KW3 (Back gates) | 9:05 | 3:05 |
| KW4 (Front double gates round markings) | 9:05 | 3:05 |
| KW5 (Front double gates X) | 9:10 | 3:10 |
| Dolphins (Back gates) | 9:10 | 3:10 |
| 1R (Front Double gates) | 9:15 | 3:15 |
| 6S | 9:20 | 3:20 |
| 1T (Front Double gates round markings) | 9:25 | 3:25 |

| Friday Times | Start | Finish |
|--------------|--|--|
| KWR | 9:00 Back gate | 3:00 Back gate |
| KW1 | 9:00 Right side of double playground gate | 3:00 Right side of double playground gate |
| KW2 | 9:00 Left side of double playground gate | 3:00 Left side of double playground gate |
| KW3 | 9:05 Back gate | 3:05 Back gate |
| KW4 | 9:00 Right side of double playground gate | 3:05 Right side of double playground gate |
| KW5 | 9:10 Left side of double playground gate | 3:10 Left side of double playground gate |

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Thank you all for your continued understanding.

Best wishes to you all – stay safe!

St Mary: Pray for Us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Marsh', written in a cursive style.

F Marsh - Headteacher

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