Dear Parents and Carers

Last Sunday was Palm (Passion) Sunday and marked the beginning of Holy Week. This week we have been preparing to celebrate Easter. At Mass on the weekend the Gospel told the story of the passion of Jesus beginning with the Last Supper and ending the death of Jesus on the cross. It is a very familiar story; I have heard it hundreds of times. There is the temptation to become dismissive of the details and what this amazing story has to say to me.

Jesus had his last meal with his disciples and during this gathering Jesus broke bread and blessed wine. Jesus longed to leave something of himself so that his friends would feel his love and presence always.

Each time we participate in the Eucharist we can build and strengthen that relationship with God. Jesus then went to the garden to pray. At a time when he needed his friends the most they let him down. In his hour of need the friends of Jesus slept – too caught up with their own needs to recognise the needs of others. We have all felt that sense of aloneness and abandonment; times when even our closest loved ones are not there when we need them. Like Jesus we can turn to God who never abandons and always loves.

Jesus then suffers the humiliation of the arrest and inquisitions. He is wrongly accused but does not speak out. Again we are not immune to being wrongly accused. It can be crushing to have others misunderstand our intentions or to be critical of our words and actions.

Then Peter who swore he would stand by Jesus no matter what flatly denies even knowing him. Peter fails miserably and even worse he knows he has when the cock crows and he remembers that Jesus had predicted his denials. How devastating for Peter, he longed to be a true and fervent follower of Jesus but he is weak and full of fear. Like Peter we can fail and be called to restore our relationship with Jesus.

Tomorrow, we will recall the journey where Jesus carried his cross to the place of crucifixion. Here Jesus accepted his death on the cross. Sometimes Easter can be all about the celebration of the Resurrection, but to truly experience the joy of Jesus rising from the dead I think we need to journey with Jesus in his passion. When we know darkness the light is even brighter.

I pray that all our families have a happy and holy Easter and that they feel the power of God’s love in their homes.

Happy Easter

Fairtrade Easter eggs are made from chocolate that has been made by people who are paid and work in good conditions. Unfortunately some people use young children to collect coca beans for their chocolate. Please support these young children by buying Fairtrade chocolate this Easter.

If you see this logo, then the chocolate is Fairtrade chocolate.

Emily and India (6 Aquilina)