

# Loreto Convent School Gibraltar



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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents

Loreto will close to all children on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, however, teachers continue to work from home to build on the bespoke online Learning Resource which has been created from scratch for our pupils.

Teachers have worked very hard to produce this platform which has received many positive comments from parents. May I take this opportunity to ask you not to get stressed about the work. Don't feel that you have to do all the tasks – above all, we must remain sane! When we are back in school, we will address any gaps, this is what teachers are trained to do! So please do not worry – just keep an eye on your child's work and contact the class teacher with any problems. Please check the teacher's blog every day for updates and suggestions. We will also be adding Library activities and special events as time goes on.

Although we are heading through uncharted waters academically, I can assure you that monumental efforts are being made by teaching staff to keep work as simple, relevant, child and parent friendly as possible. [support@loreto.gi](mailto:support@loreto.gi) is the email to contact with any technical queries.

I would like to share a reflection with you and please do share any thoughts, prayers, photos which we may place on our website.

<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/irish-american-teachers-poem-covid19-outbreak>

Also please see below a message from the Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chairman of the Catholic Education Service:

To all teachers, parents, support staff, governors and pupils in Catholic schools

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At this time, we are living through an unparalleled global crisis. When faced with national emergencies in the past, the people of our country have overcome adversity by relying on their families and local communities for comfort, strength, and indeed, personal contact. However, because of the contagious nature of the COVID19 Coronavirus, many will have to face this challenge in isolation.

Over the last few weeks the leaders, teachers, support staff and governors of our Catholic schools have carried out their responsibilities outstandingly in the face of increasingly difficult circumstances, preparing for the long-term closure of their schools and developing home schooling resources for pupils and parents. For this, we owe them our sincere thanks.

Our prayers are particularly needed for those parents who are now taking up their role as teachers while their children are at home. As parents they are the first educators of their children. Those who are members of the Catholic Church exercise this duty principally by choosing to send their children to Catholic schools wherever and whenever it is possible. However, in these difficult times, the role of all parents of school-aged children as their primary educators will become even more important.

Over the coming weeks and months, the resolve of our country is going to be tested. Each of us will have to play our part, whether by supporting relatives and friends, assisting those in our communities who are vulnerable and in need, by social distancing or by self-isolating if we become ill.

What we must do is pray. Together we must pray for schools, their leaders, teachers, parents and pupils. With this shield of prayer, let us support one another and place all our faith and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of his love to save us.

With the assurance of my prayers and every blessing, I remain

Yours in the Lord

+ Marcus

Thank you for all your support, particularly over this very difficult time in the school's 174 year history. We hope and pray that we can all return to normal as soon as possible.

Take care, keep safe and stay well.

Louise Napoli