

Dear Drummond Friends and Families

In these disconcerting times, and effectively housebound as most of us are, I hope you nevertheless not *feeling* isolated. For us all this is a time calling us to pray, trust, and support others more than ever - as one of the young men coming around to the university activities here has texted me: 'I just realized.... I will get no better chance than now to attain some interior order and live out a plan of life'. Let's make the most of this time. Life is fragile and uncertainty abounds, but we all do well to stay as close as we can to our Father God in these days.

Here are two short documents to read.

If you have not yet read it in full, I encourage you to read the most stirring and faith filled *Urbi et Orbi* address from the Holy Father from a few days ago. Access it [here](#). Remember that the Holy Father is asking us to pray *incessantly* (that is his word) for those who are sick, and so that all who suffer, in the mystery of suffering, may rediscover 'the same redemptive suffering of Christ'. He is also offering a plenary indulgence for all who are ill, all who care for them, and all who pray for them. More details [here](#).

I'm sending on to you the letter that the Prelate of Opus Dei has sent us two days ago in which he urges us to a trusting peace of heart and to solidarity with those afflicted. Click [here](#) to access it. No doubt he is very close to the suffering in Italy and Spain... but also very conscious of the pain that may come across India and the whole developing world.

#### Upcoming

Most of the Catholic formation we are offering is now on line. We are streaming talks, circles and meditations mainly on Zoom and Webex. In fact we are finding higher virtual than previous physical attendances. These virtual gatherings are being complemented by many individual phone calls.

- We stream each week the university meditation followed by Benediction at 6pm. Last week afterwards we held a globe conquering Zoom game of Risk with teams as far afield as Philippines, Perth, Geelong and Narre Warren. This week, a virtual game of Cluedo is being planned. (Please text Louie 0423 396 297 if you are not getting the information about this and want to join.)
- We will stream a men's evening of recollection on the Tuesday of Easter Week 6.30-8.30pm.
- There will be an afternoon of recollection for Year 12 and university students on Wednesday of Holy Week 4-6pm.

I will be back in touch also with details of streamed Easter ceremonies.

Here are some of the best pieces of advice for these days that have come to me in the last day or two:

- Rediscover the family rosary. In one family these times have been an opportunity to say the family rosary each night, and to follow it up with lively family time.
- Stay very Eucharistic. One family streams the [Holy Father's daily Mass](#). And pray [spiritual communions](#).
- Make a family list of friends and particularly elderly relatives and friends whom you can ring and make five calls each day. The more the kids are involved the better.
- Isaac Newton discovered calculus and gravity, Stravinsky wrote an opera, and Mary Shelley wrote Frankenstein, all during enforced inactivity because of plague or illness. Van

Gogh painted 'Starry starry night' when unable to leave hospital. It is marvellous thing to learn new things and new skills. One family talks of the amazing documentaries they are watching. I encourage you to sit with your children to help them have goals and a simple daily plan for these months, and then back them up with your daily interest and encouragement. Aimless free time does nobody any good and can be an abrogation of parental duty.

I send this with the very best wishes of all (left) at Drummond.

Andy

Andy Mullins

Director

3 April 2020