**ETHOS MOMENT THIRTEEN**

Good morning boys and girls I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I can’t believe this is the last day before we begin our Easter holidays. You have all worked really hard for the past few weeks and you should be very proud of yourselves – as should your Mams and Dads! Let’s begin by blessing ourselves: ***In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*** If you have set up a little prayer space, then perhaps an adult would light a little candle now. Let’s say our morning prayer***: Father in heaven you love me, you are with me night and day. I want to love you always in all I do and say, I’ll try to please you Father, bless me through the day, Amen.***

So as you know we have been learning all about Holy Week this week. Yesterday, we heard how Jesus had the last supper with his Apostles which was the very first Mass. Then Judas betrayed him with a kiss and Peter pretended he didn’t know him but when the cock crew in the morning, Peter remembered that Jesus had foretold this and he wept with sadness and asked God for forgiveness. This is a great lesson that Peter teaches us – we all make mistakes sometimes because we are only human. The important thing is that when we recognise that we have done something wrong, we should always own up and tell Jesus we are sorry. All the boys and girls in Edmondstown who have made their Communion have also had the sacrament of Penance. This is a wonderful sacrament where we can seek forgiveness for our sins.

So on Good Friday, Jesus is brought to Pontius Pilate who washes his hands of him and tells the crowd to do with him what they like. The crowd decide to seek the release of Barabbas – a terrible criminal and to crucify Jesus on the cross. How did the crowd change from shouting in joy for Jesus on Palm Sunday to shouting to kill him on Good Friday? They listened to the wrong people and got carried along – they did not stop and think for themselves about all the wonderful things that Jesus had done and all the miracles he had performed. They forgot all about that. It is easy to get carried along by the crowd but in Edmondstown we remember our motto – creideamh, cairdeas, crógacht – faith, friendship, fearlessness. We must have courage to stand up always and do the right thing, no matter what the crowd is doing.

Jesus dies on the cross on Good Friday. You might wonder why it is called Good Friday when such a terrible thing happens on this day. Well, it was a Good day for humanity – by dying on the cross, Jesus showed us the way to heaven and opened the doors for us to enter. The best news of course is that three days later on Easter Sunday, Jesus rises from the dead. When the women run to the tomb the stone that was blocking the entrance is rolled away and an angel of the Lord tells them that Jesus is alive. Can you imagine their joy? Let’s listen to the story from the bible.

***Luke 24: 1 – 8***

***On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering, they could not find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled about this, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women bowed their heads to the ground. But the two said to them. Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of man was destined to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day. And they remembered his words.***

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Thanks be to God.***

So the women were filled with joy and they ran back to tell the Apostles. On Easter Sunday, we remember the great joy that was felt by Christians when they realised that Jesus was still alive. We celebrate that Lent is over and we give each other lovely Easter eggs. I hope that you enjoy munching into your chocolate – I can’t wait!!!

Perhaps you might like to make a little cave out of play dough and put a rock to the side of it to represent the tomb with the stone rolled away. Fold up a little piece of white cloth or tissue and put it in the cave. Perhaps you could stand your little guardian angel beside the tomb. Have fun and have a happy and holy Easter. Don’t forget to enter the Easter competition – colouring for the Junior to First and Story writing for second to sixth – details under Useful Information & Resources section of website.

Talk to you after the holidays.

Mrs Cleary xxx