



Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

T 01702 343583 F 01702 390201

W www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr A Sharpe (BA (Hons), M Mus, M Ed, NPQH)

27 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Holy Week and St Bernard's Passion Mass

As we approach Holy Week, I am writing to let you know the details of our arrangements for the spiritual preparations for Easter.

During Lent, all students will have had the opportunity to participate in a Service of Reconciliation. The House Captains and Liturgy Prefects have supported all of the Reconciliation Services which have been organised for every form group from Years 7 – 13. The theme for the Services has been *'Forgive always, just as God forgives us'* and the feedback from students has been very positive. For many students it has been a moving experience. I would like to express the gratitude of our community to the Student Leaders and the RE Department for their valuable contribution to our Lenten preparation.

Next week our preparation for the Easter Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil is completed by our whole school celebration of the Passion Mass. As is our tradition, the Year 13 students re-enact the scriptural telling of Christ's Passion as part of our final liturgical celebration before we break up.

This is always a spiritually moving experience and an essential part of our Lenten preparations. As always, all students participate and to enable this to happen we will be holding an upper school Passion Mass in the morning and a lower school Passion Mass in the afternoon. This is necessary because we are no longer able to seat and stage the Passion Mass for all of our growing community at the same time.

To enable the day to run smoothly, students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will finish school on Friday 5 April at 12.35pm following the first Passion Mass. They need to be able to make their own way home at this time. School buses will continue to run at the normal time and, should you wish your daughter / son to stay in school and be supervised until 3.40pm as usual, please complete the relevant section and return the slip overleaf.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will attend the Passion Mass in the afternoon and will leave school at the usual time.

Year 13 students will be lead participants in both services. In addition, each year the students in Year 13 take the dramatisation of the Gospel to one of our Deanery Parish Churches. This year they dramatised the Gospel at St Helen's, Westcliff on Sunday 24 March 2019.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to ask your daughter / son about their Lenten preparations and hope that you and your daughter / son may be able to attend the services of the Easter Triduum (the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday service in the afternoon and the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening).

Wishing you a holy and blessed Eastertide.

Yours sincerely



MR A SHARPE
Headteacher

✂

.....
*Please return to the brass letter box **by Thursday 4 April 2019 by 11.35am.***

Years 10, 11 and 12
Passion Mass

I wish my daughter / son to remain in school until 3.40pm on Friday 5 April 2019.

Signed: Parent / Carer

Name of Daughter / Son: Form: