

**As we end this term not able to be together in school, we will be missing our Lenten service and our reflection on the Easter message – so, we reflect on it briefly together today.**



**The gospel of John tells us about Mary of Magdalene's experience on the first Easter Sunday morning, Jesus having been killed on the cross on the Friday. We are told that, early in the morning, while it was still dark, she went to the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. She went running to tell the disciples, Simon Peter and John, then went back to the tomb weeping, thinking someone had taken Jesus' body. She saw someone she thought was the gardener, who asked her why she was crying and who she was looking for. She asked him to tell her where Jesus had been taken, but he just said to her, 'Mary', and she realised it was Jesus. She was overjoyed.**

**The message, that Mary and the other disciples came gradually to understand, having witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and after the resurrection, is that God's love for us means that light overcomes darkness, hope overcomes despair, life overcomes death.**



**In one of his Easter Sunday messages, Pope Francis said this:**

***This is the culmination of the Gospel, or Good News: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.***

***In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast: Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness***


**The image of Jesus, abandoned and vulnerable, on the cross and in the tomb, reminds us that He shared and understood our humanity and vulnerability, so there is nothing we can experience or think or fear that we can't talk to him about and be sure of compassionate understanding.**



**Jesus' resurrection showed us that life can be transformed when we trust in God. We believe that whatever darkness we might have in our lives, whether small things or large things, God will bring light into the situation, when the time is right, if we trust in him as Jesus did. It is also possible for us to bring light into other people's darkness.**



**So we conclude by praying for people whose lives seem full of darkness, and we pray that we will be a light for the people around us, using prayers based on those offered by Pope Francis in his message to the world on a recent Easter Sunday:**



*With this joyful certainty of Easter  
hope in our hearts, we turn to you,  
risen Lord!*

*Help us to seek you and to find  
you, to realize that you are our  
Father and we are not orphans;  
that we can grow to love you.*

*Help us to overcome the scourge of  
hunger, aggravated by conflicts  
and by the immense wastefulness  
for which we are often responsible.*

*Enable us to protect the vulnerable,  
especially children and the  
elderly, and all who are exploited  
and abandoned.*





***Enable us to care for our brothers and sisters struck by the corona virus, and to care for those suffering from many other diseases which are spread through neglect and dire poverty.***

***Comfort those who have left their own lands to migrate to places offering hope for a better future and the possibility of living their lives in dignity and of freely professing their faith.***

***We ask you, Lord Jesus, to put an end to all war and every conflict, whether great or small, ancient or recent.***

***Lord, we pray to you for all the peoples of the earth: you who have conquered death, grant us your life, grant us your peace!***

***Amen***

**Nada te turbe,  
nada te espante;  
Quien a Dios tiene, nada  
le falta.  
Nada te turbe,  
nada te espante:  
Sólo Dios basta.**

**Let nothing disturb you, let  
nothing frighten you, everything  
passes, but God remains.  
Let nothing disturb you, let  
nothing frighten you; whoever  
has God lacks nothing.  
God alone is enough.  
(St Teresa of Avila)**



**God keep us , bless us,  
and watch over us  
until we meet again.**