



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Dear Waterloo Catholic Community –

We have communicated a fair bit over the past year – certainly there have been more letters from my office than would normally be the case and we certainly know that there is a clear reason for that to be so. The pandemic has changed our lives and has invited far more frequent communication. Today I would like to reflect more meaningfully on just the next few days ahead.

We find ourselves in the midst of Holy Week as we prepare for the Holy Triduum. We reflect on the fact that the only path to the joy of Easter Sunday is through the experience of the sorrow and loss of the crucifixion. In many ways, this is an apt reflection for us as we impatiently wait for the end of our suffering and for the rebirth of our lives. It has been a challenging year and I want to thank and acknowledge all our families for the confidence and partnership you have shown us. We know that it has not been at all easy and there may yet be struggles ahead.

We need look no further than the example of Christ, who in His human form, prayed to God for strength and to be spared his suffering. But God so loved the world that He gave His only son and it was through His love, that hope and rebirth was provided to all humankind. As we look to the wondrous beauty of nature around us – as it is awakened and stirred into new life – may we know that hope is ours and that this darkness too shall pass.

I would like to take this opportunity to strongly ask that you *not* gather this weekend for Easter festivities. Please confine your celebrations to your immediate family. It is a hardship – there can be no doubt – but it is part of our collective responsibility to one another. Please do not gather. Please do not let children come together for play dates. Please do not make exceptions to the guidance. It will be a quiet Easter, but the end is in sight, and what we do now can really influence how we experience the last months of this pandemic before there is broader vaccination.

We will have more updates in the week to come, but today it is just a sincere wish for a happy and holy Easter season. May all the hopeful jubilation that Easter Sunday brings be yours as we transition from the waiting and sadness of Lent to the unmatched joy of the resurrection.

Please reach out to us if you need help or guidance, and remain confident that we are here to support you, as we walk together as a hope-filled community. *#InThisTogether*

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten  
Director of Education

