

April 3, 2020

I was very moved this morning by Mr. Haven's daily prayer, where he offered some reflections from the Book of Habakkuk in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the passage, Habakkuk has cried out to God, asking "when will this end?" God's answer is that it will happen in its appointed time, and if it delays, wait for it. In his reflection, Mr. Haven offered that "waiting for it" for so many of us right now is very hard, and very frustrating. Many of us, like Habakkuk, have found ourselves wondering when this will end. We have tremendous respect and appreciation for all of those who are actively fighting this virus – the doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals who put their own health at risk in order to help others. There are so many other essential workers who similarly are generously and courageously giving of themselves to provide the safety, food, transportation, and other essential services that we need at this time. And yet for some of us, all that we can do – the most helpful and heroic thing we can do – is simply to wait, shelter in place, and pray. We know that doing so is helping to curb the spread of this virus, but it's hard to feel like we are making a difference.

Today, I'm writing with the hard news that we have made the decision that the remainder of this academic year will occur online. We did not reach this decision lightly, and though it is a hard choice to make, it is clearly the right one – and is the same decision that all public and Catholic schools in Santa Clara County have reached as well. I know that this news hits hard for all of our students, but particularly so for our seniors and their families. As a parent of a member of the class of 2020 myself, I know what a disappointment this is. At our "virtual coffee" with Senior parents this morning, we shared that we will still find ways to celebrate graduation with their sons and families, but that we will not have our traditional graduation ceremony on May 23rd (although we will do something to commemorate that day, whether online or other. Details to follow when we learn what will be permissible at that time.) We very much look forward to celebrating with the Class of 2020 in person as soon after May 23 as is practical and at a time when the most families can attend. I know this news also hits hard for every student, and that you as parents will be consoling some disappointed young men today.

Just this afternoon, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and Central Coast Section (CCS) have announced that all Spring sports are cancelled for this year. Again - I know this comes as another huge disappointment for Spring athletes, most of whom didn't even get to participate in one game or contest this year. We are working with our coaches and moderators of clubs and activities to encourage them to think of ways in which they can continue to connect virtually, and hopefully in person as soon as that is possible.

We know it's hard, and we are here to support your sons. We heard good feedback about this morning's coffee, and encourage junior, sophomore, and freshman parents to attend your coffees on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week at 8:15. The recording of this morning's Class of 2020 parent coffee will be shared by Mrs. Luscher by tomorrow, and a link to the meetings for other classes will be sent out the night before your class is scheduled to meet. We would also love to hear your feedback about how things have been going for your son this week with our new modified schedule. Please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) to share your feedback with us.

Lent is always a season of waiting. Many of us practice acts of “giving something up” during Lent. I know we didn’t look to be giving up in-person communication and contact. But we do hope in the promise of what lies ahead. In the Christian context, of course, that refers to the gift of God’s only son, sent to be with us in all of our frailties, suffering, and sorrow, because God loves us and is with us, always. We also at this time look forward with hopeful anticipation to when we no longer have to isolate ourselves physically or socially. Never will our routines look so good, or will your sons be more anxious to go to school than when they are able to do so again!

I have particularly appreciated the chance these past few weeks to pray with our Jesuits online, and want to remind you that they are streaming Sunday services live at 9:30 each Sunday (our apologies for the technical difficulties last week; those should all be resolved now.) You can tune in live (or recorded afterwards) at WWW.BCP.ORG/SUNDAYMASS. Additionally, Easter services will be broadcast as follows:

- Holy Thursday - Bishop Sevilla - 7:30pm, April 9
- Good Friday - Fr. Mike Moodie, S.J. - 3:00pm, April 10
- Easter Vigil - Fr. Mario Prietto, S.J. - 7:30pm, April 11
- Easter Sunday Mass - 9:30 a.m., April 12

As always, please know that we are here to support you however we can. If there is some way that we can support you or your son, please let me, Mrs. Luscher, or his counselor know. Please know that you all are in our prayers, and that we are grateful for your prayerful support.

Sincerely,
Chris Meyercord

Kristina Luscher