

Our Ref: SAS/AW

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Colleagues

## **Diocesan Guidance on School Openings on Good Friday and Easter Monday 2020**

A number of schools have contacted me to ask the diocesan view on whether schools may open, for the children of key workers, on both Good Friday and Easter Monday.

These are exceptional times which require an exceptional response. The normal diocesan position is for schools to open in Holy Week.

This year, schools may open on Good Friday and Easter Monday should they wish to. There is no expectation that they must open and those staff who work must be willing to do so on these two days.

To recognise the importance of the Triduum, I would ask schools to hold a simple liturgy on the afternoon of Good Friday. Catherine Moss, our Lead Teacher of Religious Education, will shortly email a number of resources that you can use or amend to your setting. You may have your own of course.

I can confirm that opening on these days will not provide any difficulties with Catholic Insurance Services.

### **Catholic Insurance Services**

Some local authorities have offered schools the option to take out insurance with RPA. In their recent schools' committee, diocesan trustees reiterated their wish for schools to continue to use Catholic Insurance Services. During the next few months, we will explore more fully the advantages and disadvantages of RPA so Trustees are in a much stronger position to make a recommendation in spring next year.

Thank you for all you continue to do in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



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