

5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

English Martyrs'  
Catholic School



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Dear Students and Parents

Principal: M.T. Carney B.A., M.Phil. (*Cantab*)

It's a week since we learned the news of the explosion on the Hinckley Road and during these last days we have heard and prayed about the terrible loss of life, including the lives of members of the school community.

The school has come together regularly to pray for those who have died, for those injured and anxious and for the emergency services.

On Friday we held a Day of Solidarity with the Ragoobee family and throughout that day we held celebrations of Mass. Despite our shock and grief we were carried in prayer and by the strong examples of God's love in friendship this family brought to those who know them. No doubt many of us gave thanks for the blessings in our own lives whilst remembering the fragility and transience of human life.

At this time we also remember that Christian belief is that in death life is changed, not ended, and that we look forward in hope, despite our present sorrow.

Students and past students have been proactive in putting love into action for the survivors through fund raising, crowd fundraising and beautiful gestures such as the Minute's Applause at the Leicester match on Saturday. On Friday we had tremendously energetic fundraising in school and in total £7,500 was raised for the Ragoobee family. If you are undertaking any other fundraising please tell Mrs Loakes, Business Manager and ensure that she receives funds promptly. Thank you to parents who have sent in gifts and donations including toiletries – there is no further need for anymore at this time.

A very big thank you to students and staff who were involved in the leadership of assemblies, Masses and fundraising activities last week. Our community has truly been, to quote our school hymn, a place where "love can dwell" and welcome is a profound and ongoing reality. I would also like to thank everyone for ensuring that the things we say online about last week's events are restrained and dignified. Thank you to James Noakes our Chaplain for his support for everyone and also to our priests, particularly Fr Marcel, Fr Simon and Fr Martin who have given so generously of their time to care for us all.

Our school hymn also reminds us of the need for forgiveness - "that hearts learn to forgive". Many of us, I have no doubt, have heard that recently, charges have been brought with regards to the explosion. In the fullness of time we will learn more. For now we must try not to nurse anger but continue to honour those who have lost their lives and allow those closest to them to grieve in privacy. May I ask everyone to continue our prayerful solidarity and love for the Ragoobee family and all those who died together with the neighbours and local residents.

On Friday at Mass we prayed these words which I ask us all to make our prayer this week:

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the Love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. Amen.*

Yours sincerely

Marius Carney  
Principal

Performing Arts Specialist Status

