



# Christ The King Federation

'nos iter simul'



## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex. CM3 5JX.

Headteacher: Mrs S Ginzler-Maher Acting Head of School: Mrs C Webster

Telephone: 01245 321828 Fax: 01245 321795

e-mail: [admin@st-josephspri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephspri.essex.sch.uk)

website: [www.stjosephscatholicprimaryswf.org](http://www.stjosephscatholicprimaryswf.org)

I am grateful to Canon Peter for providing the following reflection during this difficult time.

**Mrs Ginzler-Maher**

**Executive Headteacher**

### REFLECTION

"Everybody can swim," is a truism, but it is doubted most strongly by those who cannot! To help me, when I was a young boy, conquer my overwhelming doubts of being able to swim and subsequent fear of being in water, my father advised me to try floating. It was a sunny day, we had gone as a family to Southend, the tide was coming in, the water heated, after flowing over the warm mud flats of the Thames estuary. I was in the water, other children were swimming, but my feet were firmly placed on the sea-bed! "Why don't you try floating," called my father. "What do I have to do?" I shouted. Back came the advice, to lay back in the water and take my feet off the bottom. It didn't work, my feet gravitated down to the mud. "No," said dad, "you're not leaning back far enough, you've got to lean back all the way, so far back, that the water covers your head, right up to your eyebrows."

Well, it was a tall order, but I trusted my father, I did what he advised, and I floated. Then I became comfortable in water, even though I knew it could still be a dangerous medium, and then I could swim. And I could swim in any depth of water. Though my feet had no chance of touching the bottom, it did not bother me. I knew, if I had to, that I could even swim above the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean, some 11,000 metres deep, and not be afraid!

My father loved me, he believed in my abilities and I trusted him to the limits and beyond the limits of my understanding and experience. "Lay your head back all the way," he said, "and you will float," you will overcome your fears. In these present anxious times when our understanding and experience, or lack of experience in such a unique situation, is being pushed to the extreme and beyond, our heavenly Father is calling to all of us to trust, to have faith in Him. A whole-hearted faith that declares, firstly, His unlimited love for me and my family, and then believes in His infinite wisdom even when He calls us to follow sometimes strange and unwelcome paths through life. The deeper our faith in Him, the further we "lay" back in His arms, entrusting ourselves and our family to Him, then those natural fears of the present and the future become no longer overwhelming. Yes, we are ever wary of the dangers of the natural world in which we live, but if we can really and truly call God "Abba," "Dadda," as His Son, Jesus Christ, told us to, having absolute faith in Him, then we will be able to "swim" unafraid, even over the deepest challenges of life.

I continue to celebrate Mass every day in the parish and include the whole school community in my prayers.

**Canon Peter Connor OFS**

