***Friday 22nd May 2020 Collective Worship – St Thomas Aquinas***

*If you can, it might help to set aside a space for prayer, light a candle to focus.*

**Collective Worship**

1. Start with the Sign of the Cross
2. Take time to read today’s Gospel: John 16:20-23

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I tell you most solemnly,

you will be weeping and wailing

while the world will rejoice;

you will be sorrowful,

but your sorrow will turn to joy.

A woman in childbirth suffers,

because her time has come;

but when she has given birth to the child she forgets the suffering

in her joy that a man has been born into the world.

So it is with you: you are sad now,

but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy,

and that joy no one shall take from you.

When that day comes,

you will not ask me any questions.’

1. **Short Reflection**

Today in school we think of those in Year 13 who would have celebrated their final Mass together on their last day of school.

The path of taking exams after many months of study has been taken out of our control and the waiting of results will be different to previous years. We may have had a time of trouble and anxiety. This is the beginning of the journey of the students who are leaving our school community. We pray that our students will remember the happy times they have had at school and the many friendships they have made. We also think of our staff and students who would have been going to Lourdes tomorrow, a place of Our Lady, to help the sick in our diocese.

Jesus speaks of pain that turned to joy and invites the disciples to be patient, as he was. He is not talking about an empty waiting, but sees an opportunity to grow in trust, to deepen our relationship with our loving God.

Jesus, I ask you now to help me to remain with you always, to be close to you with a passionate heart, and to accept patiently whatever you want of me. And make me a joyous person!

1. **Prayer to Mary in the month of May**

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we turn to you, O Virgins of virgins, our Mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, do not despise our petitions, but in your mercy hear us and answer us. Amen.

**Hail Mary**
*Hail Mary full of Grace,*

*the Lord is with thee*

*Blessed art though amongst women*

*and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,*

*pray for us sinners now*

*and at the hour of our death Amen.*

1. **School Prayer**

*Christ, you are the centre of our school community*

*Help us to live together in peace*

*Help us to love one another as you have loved us*

*Help us to learn your ways so that the truth will set us free.*

*Amen*

1. St Thomas Aquinas, Pray for us
2. Finish with the Sign of the Cross
3. *Suggested song for the day: ‘In Christ Alone’ Celtic Worship*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kvFtXphmMU>