



No 6: 27 March 2020

“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”

School Theme 2020

Our Commitment to Child Safety:

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

Dear Parents and families,

Latest COVID19 Update

I hope you are well and eagerly anticipating taking a well-deserved holiday break within the safety of your homes, supported by your family and friends.

Even though our children commenced school holidays earlier this week, our priority at St Paul the Apostle School remains the health and safety of our school community and I must re-iterate that our school remains well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19. Our staff has been busily preparing for the provision of online learning from home in the likelihood that a return to school for the commencement of term two is delayed.

As with our staff, the CECV (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria) has been working diligently to ensure that the focus will remain on supporting staff and school leaders as they plan to deliver continuity in online, offsite learning in partnership with parents during Term 2 across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The CECV is carefully considering support for students with diverse learning needs and developing resources to assist schools. We'll keep you informed of any updates and helpful resources over the next fortnight.

Provision for Online Home Learning - if a return to school for Term Two is delayed.



As a result the Coronavirus pandemic, schools are implementing an online facility to allow children to keep in touch with their learning. Here at SPA, we have decided to adapt our current student portal to provide a link to the Home Learning Website that allows home learning to occur.

Our Student Online Portal is ready but has not been made available for families to access at the moment as we believe that the school holidays, especially during these uncertain stressful times, provide the perfect opportunity for our children and our families to take time to enjoy quality family time and to learn in a variety of unstructured ways.

As with any school holiday period, families can continue to support their child's learning at home with the provision of daily reading with and to the children, daily journal writing, explorations around the backyard, movies, arts and crafts, singing and dancing, physical activities, puzzles, mindfulness along with games and activities focused on "resilience" – our current school inquiry.

Our approach to Home Learning is a multi-faceted approach and focuses on the provision of engaged, enjoyable and purposeful learning activities but will not include reams of uninspiring worksheets. We would like our children to focus on everyday activities that involve reading, writing and mathematics and also to allow our children to extend their learning and thinking through research and activities based on their current Inquiry topic or their own home environment.

Even though our Home learning is hosted online, many of the activities will not be dependent on digital devices or access to the internet. Children can use the digital devices when available, at home however in most cases you will only access the Home Learning website for instructions. A printed copy of the Home Learning Tasks can also be requested if you do have access to the internet.

Our Student Online Portal now has a link to Home Learning for each Year Level and for each our Specialist areas and Health & Wellbeing, RE, Cooking and Parent Info. Our teachers are currently posting activities to this web-space that will complement our current learning and teaching foci and allow our children to work independently and at their own pace on interest based tasks.

Teachers will post instructions and set up activities to allow the students to work independently and confidently. In the Prep and Junior Levels, we ask that parents facilitate home learning by reading instructions and explaining activities however Middle and Senior Levels are encouraged to work independently. This is a great opportunity for you to engage in your child/children's learning and spend quality time with each other during these unprecedented circumstances.

Our Home Learning web link instructions and expectations will be announced on Tuesday 14 April 2020 via Flexibuzz or at www.spadoreen.catholic.edu.au.

A special reminder that the Premier has announced that staff will resume on Tuesday 14 April (gazetted by the Victorian Government as an additional Staff Planning Day due to COVID19) with the children scheduled to commence on Wednesday 15 April unless circumstances change.

We thank you for your assistance with our Home Learning Program. Should you have any questions please contact Frank Fabri (Deputy Principal/Digital Technologies Leader) ffabri@spadoreen.catholic.edu.au

We will continue to provide you with periodic updates when they become available from the respective Government bodies and the CECV via our flexi-buzz app and school website.

This remains a challenging time for your families, our staff and our global community and I thank you for the support and calmness you have demonstrated for the sake of our children.

The message of Easter with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus remains one of hope and I wish you a happy and safe holiday with your families and loved ones.

Warm regards,



Phil Doherty (Principal)

Frank Fabri (Deputy Principal/Digital Technologies Leader)



We proclaim a crucified Christ

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Monday 23 March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, and Staff,

My prayerful greetings to you all in this Lenten season.

We are now moving to an early Term break and preparations for Easter celebrations. What normally would be a time of anticipation and excitement, perhaps of travel and family celebrations, may now be a time of 'uncomfortable uncertainty' for you.

These days are worrying for us as adults, and must be deeply unsettling for your children as their routines, extra curricula activities, play dates, and planned activities change daily, and are abandoned. I cannot step into your shoes and truly know all the many difficulties this time is presenting to you, for your families, and especially for grandparents and older loved ones. Please know you are held close in my personal prayer.

For myself, I cannot recall a time when our whole culture and way of life has been called to stop and think about who we will be spending time with, who we are to one another, and what important aspects of our lives that we must put on hold. Particularly devastating is the suspension of our public gathering as a people of God.

As we take stock of what we need to do, I ask that we all might look to this time to find opportunities to be creative and innovative as Christians - to rediscover a new rhythm to our family lives, and to find the true heart of our domestic Church. A domestic Church that experiences communion with each other and offers a shared worship of a life lived in faith, hope and charity.

I encourage you to visit websites such as our Catholic Education Melbourne (<https://www.cem.edu.au/>) and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (<https://www.cam.org.au/>) among others - not only for the latest updates in our faith communities, but for a variety of resources that might bring new life and joy to you in Christ who lives among you.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



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