



20th March 2020

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

As the events of this week have unfolded, I am affirmed at the spirit of our Catholic community to come together in times of crisis. In these challenging times, although we are asked to maintain physical social distance, it is our connection through empathy and compassion that connects us emotionally and spiritually. From the emails and conversations of support we have received, this has been in abundance within our community over the past week. Thank you to our parents and staff for their collective response to meeting the needs of our children. Our staff are working diligently to support the children in our care, and I encourage parents to affirm this contribution at every opportunity.

This week, there have been a few key developments of which to be aware:

- ALL Masses and services have been suspended for a period of 2 weeks including Sacramental celebrations, school liturgies and weekday/weekend masses. Please see the letter from the Archbishop here: <https://bit.ly/396VqHV>
- Today, the Education Council informed schools that NAPLAN 2020 for Year 3 and 5 is cancelled. Please read the full statement here: <https://bit.ly/2J20Gls>

As outlined in previous communication, whilst there is much rumour and conjecture about school closures from both the 'rumour-mill' and the media, we have not been informed of any such direction. In the event of a school closure, classroom teachers have prepared learning packs for each year level outlining timetables and activities which will go home with the children. We are continually revising our **Education Response Plan** to address the concept of off-site learning for any long-term closures. This will involve the use of Microsoft Teams and OneNote's Class Notebook for Year 4-6 (with 1:1 iPads) and SeeSaw for the K-2 cohort.

I understand the decision of parents to keep their children at home as a precaution, however, our school continues to operate as per normal. Therefore, teachers are still teaching all day and their first priority is to the students on-site. They are endeavouring to support children who are absent but are not available to respond to emails daily, or send work home regularly, this is not a practical expectation of our staff. I encourage parents to remain in contact with your child's teacher, but to have reasonable expectations as to the work teachers can set absent children. A reminder, that if you have made the decision to keep your child or children at home due to COVID-19, please advise the school in writing, admin@stfrancisbutler.wa.edu.au. In the event of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, or a DIRECT contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, please contact me immediately as we have processes in place to manage such situations. As always, all updates and communication are available on our school website www.stfrancisbutler.wa.edu.au

Thank you for your continued understanding, support and patience.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Jason Baker

Principal