

Dear Parents and Students, School Staff and Leadership Teams,

As we move into this school break, I just wanted to confirm my commitment to you - over these weeks and months ahead - that I will be around to help in any way I can to support your family life and faith commitment, in our wonderful communities at Holy Trinity, Our Lady Help of Christians & St. Francis Xavier Schools.

It is shocking to think just how much our world has changed in such a short space of time. The things that we have taken for granted and our easy way of life are now under serious threat by this invisible enemy we name as the Coronavirus. To win this fight, we need simply to be 'still' - personal isolation and family quarantine, will help our country to defeat this pandemic and slow the rate of infections within our community. Avoid spreading this contagion by limiting the number of people that we come in contact with each day! So, stay at home and enjoy simple tasks, games and movies, food and fun. Naturally, this will not be easy - but necessary if we are to get through this difficult time for our society and the world.

I have to say, that I'm very proud of our leadership teams at each school and our healthy communication across our Federated Schools - HT / OLHC / SFX.

To Vince, Chris and Philip - your leadership and commitment to your schools, (staff & students) especially over this stressful Term One has been very impressive for me to witness.

As a leadership team, we are acutely concerned about the health & mental health of staff, students and families at this time. We stand ready to support and practically care for anyone who might need our assistance to get through these weeks & months ahead. So, if we can help - please don't hesitate to be in contact with us.

With regard to students and families involved in sacramental programs in 2020, Baptisms / Reconciliation / First Eucharist / Confirmation - don't worry, we will re-open these celebrations when we believe it is appropriate to do so. Naturally I am sorry for this inconvenience but 'all life' is on hold at present. Kathy Toomey, thank you for your ministry to everyone on these important Faith moments.

So on behalf of: Fr. Terry Kean, Fr. Barry Cauldwell and myself, we wish you lots of love and prayerful support over these sacred weeks. We move spiritually from Lent to Easter - from Darkness to Light - how appropriate!

For the first time in history, our Churches at Eltham and Montmorency might be 'closed' but our Hearts are 'open' to you and the Divine presence that exists in the Risen Christ. Please open your hearts and concern for people that will find this time very difficult to live through. We are all in this experience together, and together we can find a new way to love in a deeper way. Thus, don't be afraid to say a prayer for yourself and others too.

Keep Safe - Do the right thing,
Warmest Love,

Yours in Jesus Christ

Michael F. Sierakowski - Moderator