



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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May this great season of the Church, this time of preparation and celebration, not be seen as lost, but something embraced in a new life-giving way.

As our Father entrusted the care and childhood of his only Son to St Joseph, we call on him in prayer to protect and guide us gently through these troubled times.

St Joseph, pray for us.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a smaller 'A' and a long, flowing horizontal line that ends in a small loop. A small cross symbol is visible to the left of the signature.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
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