



23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

In these ever-changing times, I write to you with our latest Coronavirus update.

Over the weekend we heard from our Prime Minister, The Treasurer and the Chief Health Officer. Further to that, our Premier (The Hon Daniel Andrews) addressed the State regarding Victoria and exactly what we can and cannot do. This was immediately backed up by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education (Mr James Merlino). Based on this information, together with that from the Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM), our students will commence their term holidays effective Tuesday 24 March 2020.

It is very clear that these holidays are going to be somewhat different to previous ones. It is **IMPERATIVE** that students abide by the social distancing regulations and that they avoid gathering in groups. The intention is to minimise the transmission of this virus by limiting gatherings of any nature.

I thank you for your support in this matter.

Students will commence their Term 1 holiday period as at Tuesday 24 March 2020 and are expected to return on Tuesday 14 April 2020 straight after Easter Monday.

In the event that schools will still not be operating at this point, we will enact our Learning from Home Policy. Students will continue their learning from an online platform. Also, part of the school may be operational.

I emphasise that this procedure is unknown at this stage. In due course, announcements may be made. So, for the benefit of all, school will be returning on Tuesday 14 April 2020 unless you are otherwise informed.

In this update, you will also find attachments for families. These are to support you in the event that you require assistance with wellbeing issues, important contacts and online protocols for students learning from home.

These may be found by following the link from our webpage:

<http://www.nazareth.vic.edu.au/covid-19-information/>

Throughout the holiday period, I will endeavour to keep families updated and, on behalf of all the staff, we hope that you all have a Holy Easter.

In concluding, I have included a Prayer that was shared with our staff today. It really made one realise that there are some social benefits to this situation that may have been lost over time and that in the current circumstances we are reminded about what is important.

Kind regards

Mr Sam Cosentino
PRINCIPAL



LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.
The birds are singing again,
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.