

27 March 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Since students finished classes on Monday, staff have been working hard to finalise our plans for *Online Learning from Home*, and apart from our maintenance and cleaning staff, are now all working from home. I thank everyone: students, families and staff for all that you have brought to our school community during Term 1, particularly the resilience, hard work, patience and support that have been so evident over the past two weeks.

These holidays will be very different to anything we have experienced before. We remind families that for everyone's safety, we all need to stay home. The coming weeks are not a time for students to visit friends or to gather in parks, homes or at the shops. We all need to restrict our movements and leave home only when it is essential. In this way, each of us can do our small part of keep everyone safe.

### School Fees / Fee Relief

One of the terrible effects of the COVID-19 epidemic has been the impact on work. Over the past week, a number of parents have lost their jobs or been stood down temporarily. We remind families that, as always, the College will support you with fee relief. This may mean putting fees on hold in the short term and / or working out a payment plan in the longer term.

Anne Ross, the College Bursar, who is working from home can be contacted by email or phone from **9.00am – 3.30pm** throughout the holidays, except at weekends or on Public Holidays. Please leave a message and the best contact number.

1. Email: [crcaccounts@crcstalbens.com.au](mailto:crcaccounts@crcstalbens.com.au) OR
2. Phone: 0482 900 216

### Contact with the College

Families can still contact the school via the normal College phone number (9366 2544) or [enquiries@crcstalbens.com.au](mailto:enquiries@crcstalbens.com.au). The phone calls are being redirected to office staff who are working from home and emails at enquiries are checked regularly.

### Communication Strategy during the COVID-19 Pandemic

All our updates to families are published on the College website in English, Vietnamese, Arabic and Dinka.

Each time there is a new update we will send an SMS message with the link to the website.

Please make sure that you check the update each time we send a notification. This is how we will communicate arrangements for the start of Term 2, when they are known.

## Holidays

Teaching staff and most non-teaching staff have school holidays from Monday 30 March to Monday 13 April. We ask that all contact with the school during this time is through the main College phone number or [enquiries@crcstalbans.com.au](mailto:enquiries@crcstalbans.com.au), rather than via staff emails.

## Easter

Holy Week and Easter will be particularly poignant this year as we experience the story of Christ's death and resurrection against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we 'cocoon' in our homes, we need to remember that Christ is light and hope for our world, and that new life will emerge from our current experiences.

With the cancellation of all masses and religious gatherings, there are many sources for online masses and prayer. Mass is streamed daily from St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne website also has a range of resources and advice around how we live and support our faith at this time. This includes *Liturgy of the Word at Home* resources. <https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

Over the coming weeks, I hold you in my thoughts and prayers. May the blessings of Holy Week and the simple joys of Easter be God's gifts to each of you over the coming weeks. May you and your family remain safe and well.

Take care and God bless.



Christina Utri  
Principal

### ***A blessing for the Easter Break***

*Let us put ourselves into the hands of our Lord,  
and pray that God will bless us and our families  
through these final weeks of Lent  
and during the coming holy days.*

*May each of us help to make our homes  
places of joy, love and peace.  
May we continue to be people  
who make a difference in our world.  
May we be generous and considerate;  
helping others keep the celebration of the dying and rising  
of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
May God bring us light and joy and bless us all.*

*Amen*