Be Opened….to Believe
God of freedom,
you remove all that binds us
into patterns of death
and breathe new life
into every worn-out soul.
We cry to you for release
from all that binds us.
Roll away the stone that blocks;
loosen the tightness of our lives;
Call us forth from the tomb of our despair
into the newness of life.
We ask this prayer in the name of your Son,
Jesus, who is the Life of the world. Amen.

Leadership Team’s Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to Week 9.

I truly hope that this newsletter finds you well in what are truly extraordinary circumstances.

Can I start by acknowledging the many families who have been checking in on our staff and thanking them for their efforts in caring for your children during these complex times. At our staff meeting yesterday afternoon, I shared this with our staff and it is deeply appreciated.

Our newsletter is a day late as we were expecting some more communication from Government authorities and BCE which would have been timely to include. At this stage, I will write in a few days once any updated advice is received.
Following announcements on the weekend, our thoughts and prayers are with our family and community members who are feeling the impact of less essential services being ceased. We understand this news will add to the burden for some families, and we urge you to contact Mrs Neuendorff or myself to discuss any financial concerns and ways in which we can continue to support you and your families at this time. We have been advised that in the next day or two, Brisbane Catholic Education will be sending a parent update on this matter.

We have a number of families who have opted to keep their children at home, and as mentioned in earlier Parent Communication this is a family and parent decision. I appreciate the ongoing communication from home to school to keep us informed of your situation. I assure you that as a school we continue to follow directives from Health Authorities and State and Federal Governments, as well as Brisbane Catholic Education, and continue to review our practices and procedures to comply with directions around good hygiene practices, social distancing and other recommendations. We have been asked a few times about roll marking, and the direction from BCE remains that where the parent has decided to keep the student at home as a precaution, but no one is sick or has to self-isolate, they are to be marked as absent – personal / family.

As noted earlier, we were anticipating more concrete direction from Government authorities yesterday to provide more clarity and certainty for schools. We have been planning strongly in the background and are well positioned commencing next Term to provide face to face instruction as well as adjusted education learning programs for the home. Early next week we are firming this information and samples will be provided to you via email and the Class News tile on the Parent Portal. We also tried our hand at posting a welcome to you in this space (lots of improvement needed!) and for next term there will be regular updates here. We have also posted a link to the Stations of the Cross reflection in the Arts section within Class News. Please set up your alerts!

Our St Mary’s mission is to inspire future generations to lead hope filled lives of influence as witnesses to the Good News and no matter where learning is taking place next Term, this remains true for us all. As we have developed our operational outlines for next term, this mission is at the centre of our planning and remains central to our work. I will write in a few days to provide more information on what this may look like across each year level as I’m sure you can imagine it will look quite different across Prep to Year 6. At our staff meeting yesterday we worked through samples and our teachers should be commended for their dedication in developing these, while still teaching classes throughout the day.

To this end, and unless any other major directives are received, can you think about:

- To support continued employment, does your child need to attend school?
- If so, what days?
- If learning from home, do you have stable internet access?
- If learning from home (Year 4 – 6), will you need support with Microsoft products – TEAMS etc?
- If learning from home, what would be the best way to provide regular feedback in regards to your child’s learning?
- Additional – is there anything else needed for you to support learning within the home?

A few operational updates:

- All extra activates such as piano and guitar lesson have been postponed
- All volunteer activity is to be postponed until further advised.

Please check communication spaces regularly as we await further updates following Federal meetings today which may provide more clarity for schooling.

Our prayers and blessings to you all, stay safe and God Bless.

Kevin, Megan & Catherine - Leadership Team
Happy Birthday to Felicity K, Zed C, Lachlan A, William, Eamon H, Cacey C, Salera C, Annabelle W, Emily B, Grace M & Miles B who celebrate their special day this week a very happy birthday, may your day be awesome!

We also wish those who celebrate over the Easter Holiday a wonderful day too Jemma E, Kane S, Jorgie R, Elliera C, Evelyn B, Xavier D, Bianca B, Lincoln L, Joanna P, Dane A & Alyssia P.

Happy Birthday to you all!!!

Classroom Helpers/Volunteers
Effective immediately we have now suspended all outside voluntary classroom assistance from you, our ever-supportive parents/grandparents/loved ones. We thank you all for your understanding and also take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your time given each week. We wish you all and your families a very Happy Easter Season.

Tuckshop & Breakfast Club News
For the remainder of Term 1 the Tuckshop & Breakfast Club will no longer be operating.

Thank you to all who have assisted and supported us throughout the term.

We wish you all the very best for the Easter Season and holiday break.

Kim Walsh
Tuckshop Convenor Ph. 0407 028 509