



Letter to the Parents and Families of children at our Catholic Schools

Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Greetings of peace to you and your families.

Following the summer trauma of drought and bushfire, we now face the anxiety and uncertainty of a health emergency with the emergence of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Our national response to this new emergency is taking us to new places in the life of our society. As you are aware, for our part, I have already taken steps to ensure that people are kept as safe as possible within the life of our own Diocese of Broken Bay. However, as the health emergency unfolds, yet further steps will be required, based on the expert advice informing the decisions of the Australian Government.

As we negotiate each step one by one, I wish to assure you that I am mindful of you in a particular way. Our children are most precious. Their safety is paramount. You have entrusted them to the care of our Catholic schools, and I wish to assure you that every consideration is being given to their protection.

For the time being, at the request of the Government, our Catholic schools continue to remain open. For as long as they are, we will continue to collaborate with the Federal and State Governments, implementing all the guidelines by which we are advised. Many are the challenges. However, I know that our Principals, teachers and school staff are entirely committed to ensuring that our children can learn and grow in the safest environment possible. I want to thank them, on your behalf, for their continuing dedication and professionalism.

Throughout this time of uncertainty, let us never cease in our care for one another. We need to look out for one another, especially when we become aware of the difficulties that some of our families may face, particularly with the insecurity of employment and financial challenges. May our Catholic school communities be known for their quality of sensitivity and care. Let us also not forget that it is often the small, simple gesture of love and concern for one another that can have the greatest effect.

I hold you, your children and your families daily in my prayer.

With my heartfelt wishes in Christ Jesus,

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715, Australia P +612 8379 1614 E bishop@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au