



## Principals Message

Dear Parents and Carers

At this time in the Church's year when we celebrate the Easter Season we are reminded that in our darkest hour there will be light. Easter focuses on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this, we are given the hope of new life.

As we struggle to come to terms with Covid 19 and its impact on our daily lives let's not make this the focus of our life. Rather let us look at the joy that life brings us in the simple things; walking the dog, working in the garden, face timing our friends, continuing to observe social distancing, staying healthy and safe.

In Jesus's resurrection we have been given new life. I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Holy and safe Easter. May you take comfort in those you love and support in the knowledge that one Covid 19 will pass from our lives.

Don't forget the Easter bunny needs to have an open door to your house. Enjoy the chocolate treats!

### Easter Chicks



Duilio Rufo,  
Principal

## Dates to Remember

**9 APR HOLY THURSDAY**  
**LAST DAY OF TERM 1**

**27<sup>TH</sup> APR FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away;  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
Whoever has God lacks  
nothing;  
God alone suffices.  
-St. Teresa of Avila

*To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*

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## Assistant Principal's Message

### Term 2 Preparations

Well what a term it has been! We started the year following the devastating bushfires, then have found ourselves in the middle of a pandemic. The learning curve for all of us; teachers, staff and parents, as we move to home learning has been very steep. Over this week, teachers are preparing more home learning modules, as the COVID-19 shutdowns continue. As a school we are looking at a number of issues:

- How independently can students work – this is very age dependent
- Time constraints for parents – many parents are currently working from home, so are finding it extremely difficult to also “teach” their children
- Ensuring teaching using current pedagogies – teaching has changed greatly from when we were all at school. How do we get these new teaching methods to students?
- Marking work online and providing feedback
- Children's access to devices – this can be a significant problem especially in families where parents and a number of children are trying to share a single device

An information letter will be sent home through the holidays to explain the procedures St Therese's will be implementing in Term 2 around Home Learning

### Thank you

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the teachers, who have worked extremely hard to organise home learning in a very short period of time. We still have “Home Learning Packs” that Year 1 parents requested that are yet to be picked up from the school. Thank you to all of you parents for your patience and support through this very difficult time and thank you to our beautiful students who have shown so much resilience and flexibility.

I wish all of you a safe and Holy Easter season. Look after yourselves and take time to reconnect via phone or from a safe distance with your loved ones.

Happy Easter

**Kaylene Maretich**

**Assistant Principal/Acting Principal**

## RE News

It has certainly been a strange past few weeks as we come towards the end of Lent and prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week. It will be a Holy Week unlike any other for so many reasons; not least of all because so many of the traditions we have become accustomed to attending, participating in and hold dearly, will not be happening this year. Yet all around us, nature is reminding us that the season is here (Easter is my personal favourite time of year and not just because of the weather), with the steady increase of soaking rain, cooler nights, but still the days are filled with glorious, warm sunshine. Upon reflection, the questions then arise in my own heart.....Can I continue to create a place for the events of Holy Week in the silence and depth of my own heart? Is this year going to perhaps be the best Easter of all? It certainly seems like the mystery of Easter has been thrust upon us this year.

I encourage you all to watch the video from the link below, “The Mystery of Easter” and let the questions and mystery wash over you. Sometimes, words are simply not enough to express the true depth of things.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivkLTqkiWjc>

I pray that wherever and whatever place you find yourself in this Easter, externally and internally, you may hold on to the following two quotes from scripture:

**“What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?” (Psalm 8:5)** and know, in the depths of your heart, that not only is our God mindful of us but that, **“I love you with and everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3)**. This same God, who spoke through the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), has been made manifest to us through the Paschal Mystery - the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.*





May the Paschal Mystery offer each of you comfort and hope this Easter and may the joy, peace and love of the Risen Christ be yours now and forever.

Blessings,  
**Luke Smith**

*PS. The links below will offer you and your children an opportunity to engage together, as a family, with the sacred and special events of Holy Week & Easter.*

**Mass Online:**

<https://mncatholic.sharepoint.com/sites/DigitalUpdates/SitePages/Mass-Online.aspx>

**Good Friday:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPbGS4KugC4&feature=youtu.be>

**Easter Sunday:**

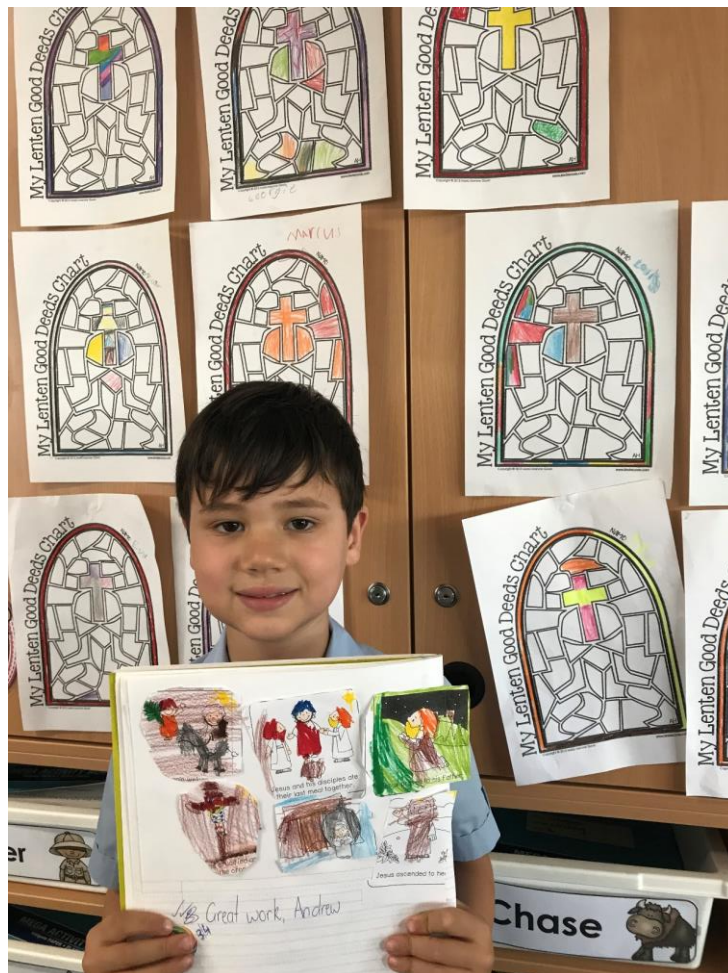
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9wkvcnBJHc&feature=youtu.be>

**Holy Week** (events and activities, including Stations of The Cross)

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/learn/liturgical-documents/holy-week-at-home/>

[https://cathfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/cf\\_activity\\_kidsstations.pdf](https://cathfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/cf_activity_kidsstations.pdf)

<https://cathfamily.org/family-stations-of-the-cross/>



Andrew L from Year 1L showing his knowledge of Easter Week

## News from the Classroom

### NDA Bullying & Violence/Harmony Day

Thank you to the Active Lifestyle team who ran extra activities in the playground last Friday to help promote acceptance and tolerance of others in our community. By all reports the students at school had a wonderful day and enjoyed the fun. We thank the Active Lifestyle Leaders in Grade 6 for their effort.

## School Community News

### School Fees

At this difficult time we understand that people's finances are impacted. If you require a financial concession or support with school fees, there is an online form to complete at the CSO website to apply for these – see attached letter for links. <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/news-events/covid-19/>

**Vicki McSpadden**  
**Bursar**

## Environmental news

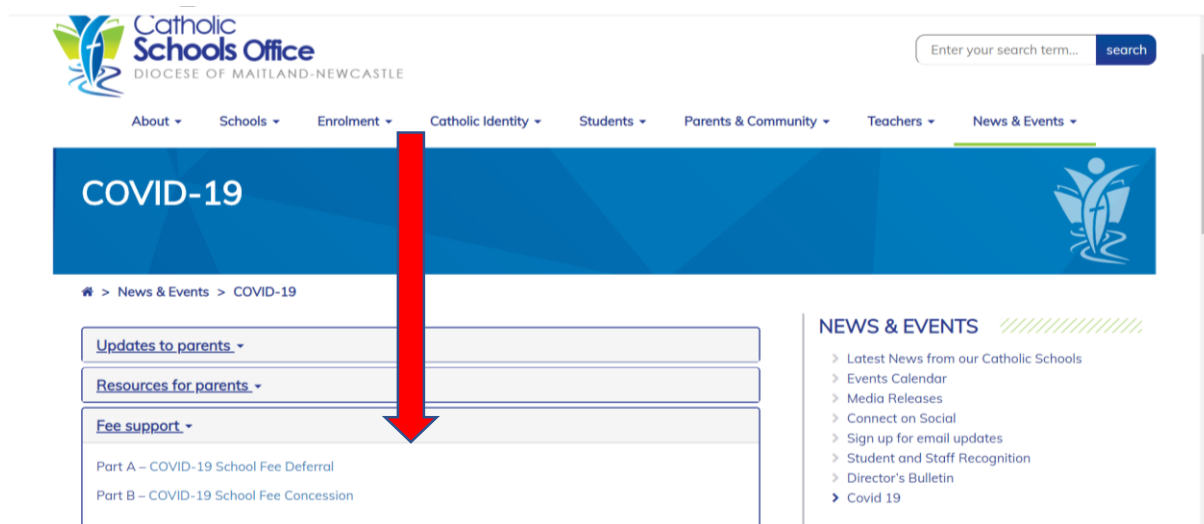


## WHERE TO FIND THE COVID 19 FEE RELIEF FORMS ON THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE WEBSITE

Go to the CSO Website and click on the News & Events tab. Click on the COVID-19 tab.



Click on the Fee Support Link under the COVID-19 tab. Click on Part A and or Part B and submit form/s.





Friday, 3 April 2020

Dear Families,

**Re: Early childhood and care relief package**

We welcome the *Early childhood and care relief package* as announced by the Prime Minister and Education Minister yesterday. The announcement of free childcare during the coronavirus pandemic brings great relief to our families, our industry as well as a level of certainty for our OOSH services.

We have been reviewing and assessing the announcement, given the payments start next week, and wanted to share with you what the package might mean for you and our services. The attached FAQ document should answer many of your questions.

Importantly, I would encourage anyone who has ceased their child's enrolment to restart. This does **not** mean that your child needs to attend, allowable absences can be used.

Re-starting your enrolment will hold your place in the service for that point in time when things start to normalise and you are ready to return your child to care.

As for your current account, your statement will be processed and forwarded to you, this will identify any monies outstanding as of COB Friday 3 April 2020. We will also cease automatic Direct Debits as of COB 3 April 2020 and will be in touch with you in regard to how we will be progressing with any outstanding amounts still requiring to be paid.

No further direct debits will be made on your accounts from Monday 6 April 2020 until further notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your OOSH supervisor or myself directly on [tracey.sweetman@stnicholasoosh.org.au](mailto:tracey.sweetman@stnicholasoosh.org.au).

Yours sincerely

**Tracey Sweetman**  
General Operations Manager

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"L\_o\_c\_k\_d\_o\_w\_n" \_

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.

*Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM*

M\_a\_r\_c\_h\_ \_1\_3\_t\_h\_ \_2\_0\_2\_0\_ \_



**Help us**



# stop the spread



## Clean your hands thoroughly

for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.



## Cover your nose and mouth

when coughing and sneezing with tissue or a flexed elbow. Put the tissues in the bin.



## Avoid close contact

with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.



## Stay home if you are sick.

[health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus)