



St Bede's College



8 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we complete the fourth week of our Offsite/Online Learning, it is the hope of the College that your son is now settling into a routine.

Based on the responses we are receiving from the phone calls that we have made to our families, it does seem that students are now very much familiar with the processes and requirements of the remote learning platform. We are hearing positive reports about the recent addition of live classrooms.

The College is also very grateful for the way in which families have shared how they are travelling as a unit. It is so heartening. We ask for your patience if you are yet to receive a phone call as we work our way through the full set of College families. It is our intention to send out a second survey so that we can continue to receive feedback on Offsite/Online Learning.

Again, we will report back on those results and also use them as a valuable source of information for discussion on what can be transferred back to onsite learning.

I wanted to make you aware that we have a very limited number of students undertaking VCE Unit 3 returning onsite from Monday. These are the students who undertake practically based subjects, where assessments are not able to be accommodated online. We have very strict protocols in place for this small group of VCE students and their teachers. In many ways, it will be a good learning process for us as we prepare to return fully to onsite learning once that decision is eventually made by the Victorian Department of Education and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

You may be hearing of stories of various schools that have adjusted their staffing levels due to the current situation. The position of St Bede's College is, that along with every student who attends our College, we are supporting our teaching and non-teaching staff by having them continue in various roles that assist your son to learn the way he does. In the case of our non-teaching staff members, a number have taken on roles that are quite different to their usual duties and I am pleased to report that they have done so magnificently. Even in these challenging circumstances, we are strongly working to maintain our students, our staff and all educational programs within St Bede's College.

This Sunday is Mother's Day. We are clear with our young men that being a strong male means being aware of the needs and circumstances of all, including women. Men who have a strong respect for their mother are usually the same men who know how to respect and support women. Please find in the attachment below, a message from our Parents & Friends Association around Mother's Day.

A number of our senior students have also pieced together a brief video of their reflections for Mother's Day, as per below.



If the icon does not work, please paste the following url into your browser:
<https://vimeo.com/416187868/725d9f9cf7>

Our College Captains have also produced another video, this time with the theme, "inspiration". It has been sent to all students. You would be aware that our College Theme for 2020 is, *Be a Light for the World*. This is more important than ever. It is always noticeable that those with the strongest grit and truest of characters remain optimistic in all circumstances. Please take the time to click on the link below to view the message in the video from these young men.



If the icon does not work, please paste the following url into your browser:
<https://vimeo.com/413900426/65fdc4a69d>

There may be some changes to our societal regulations around social distancing that emerge from the Monday announcements of the Premier. These may, or may not, impact on Victorian schools; we will await such advice. Until we hear otherwise, St Bede's College will remain in full remote learning mode.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the College. I have recently been speaking to many prospective families through multiple Google Meet sessions. So many of them are making enrolment applications based on the recommendations made by our current families. Your trust and wonderful support are never taken for granted.

The St Bede's College Community will emerge from this time as an even stronger group.

Happy Mother's Day to all those within the St Bede's College Community.

Per Vias Rectas

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Finn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mr John Finn
PRINCIPAL
Dip T | B Ed | B Sc | M Ed Studies | M Ed Leadership

ATTACHMENT: Mother's Day Greetings from the Parents & Friends Association



Mother's Day 2020



Dear Families of St Bedes College

This week the P&F would have held the Mother's Day Breakfast and the Mother's Day Stall for Years 7 - 9. Instead we find a new way to plan/celebrate such a family time.

To all our mothers, grandmothers and motherly mentor figures of our boys, whether you are able to share the day together, from a distance or from Heaven – know we have you in our thoughts.

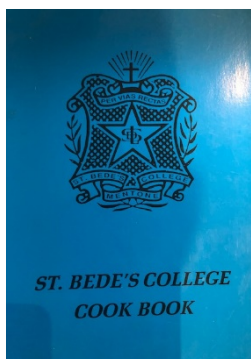
“Sons are the anchors of a mother's life” - Sophocles

To our sons - please watch the Hail Mary link below with your family. Mary is always there for you, especially in this time.

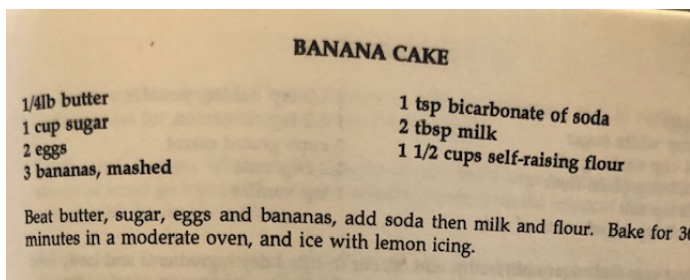
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RERoQ1biLdE> = Hail Mary Video

Some suggestions if isolation has limited ways to celebrate for our sons:

- Bake for Mum** - See a recipe from a St Bedes cookbook from the 1990s by Margaret-Mary Wintle, parent and teacher at the College.
- Serve Breakfast** - In bed/lunch/dinner [includes clean up].
- Offer time to be with Mum** - You can watch a movie of her choice with her. Do jobs for her. Go for a walk or exercise with her.
- Make/Build her Something** - Paint, sketch, create a music piece and video with you performing in it. Collect flowers from your garden or from Coles. Write a sincere note to her.
- Chocolate** - In any form
- Hugs** - Lots of them!



Finally, being a mother links every woman together with an invisible thread and brings us closer to the men in our lives as we would not be here without YOU. Please celebrate family.



Keep well
Jacinta Jones
President
PARENTS &
FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

