



St Bede's College

8 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and the family are as well as possible.

Family Phone Calls

We have begun these calls and hope to eventually connect with all St Bede's families. The contact is a way of enquiring about how your son is managing the current lockdown and asking for feedback on how we could further assist. The early responses have been extremely encouraging. Whilst our students do not want to be in lockdown, many have adapted admirably and are doing what needs to be done. They are meeting their tutor or homeroom teacher online each morning, attending classes and fulfilling the assessment requirements. They are also staying connected to each other, which is extremely important.

To our parents and carers, it is delightful to speak with you. We are very grateful knowing that we have your support and that we work together to educate your child as well as possible, no matter what the circumstances. You are doing a sterling job in continuing to be a strong role model despite all that is transpiring around you.

Return Onsite

We are not aware of any timeline for the return of students. We do know that our students who are undertaking Units 3 and 4 VCE Studies will be onsite for the GAT on 5 October and that they will be onsite for their examinations. As soon as we are aware of any changes to remote learning we will advise you as soon as possible.

Thank you to our senior students and their families who so quickly made vaccination bookings this week.

Senior Debaters

It was with great delight that we witnessed our A Grade Debating Team compete against Haileybury College in the first of the final's playoffs. All this took place online. The topic was, "Australia should have a Bill of Rights" of which St Bede's was given the affirmative side.

Our team consists of Elijah McEvoy, Lachlan Doyle, Electra Uehara, Tomas Cooling, Ben Martinelli and Lyndon Bulman.

The College is well known for our quality of debating and public speaking. Elijah, Lachlan and Electra competed on the night and won by one point with Elijah taking out the best speaker award. At a time when most co-curricular activities do not run, it was a delight to see such an activity.

R U OK Day – 9 September

The College has always supported this day and is a strong advocate of the message. The purpose of day is described below:

The Theme for this year is : Are they really OK? Ask them today. Do you know how the people in your world are really going? Life's ups and downs happen to all of us. So, chances are that someone you know might be struggling. Your genuine support can make a difference whatever they are facing, big or small. So ask them, R U OK ?

Please refer to the R U OK website for further information: <https://www.ruok.org.au>

Newsletter

There will be no Newsletter until we return onsite, given the current circumstances. Families will continue to receive regular correspondence from the College in the form of letters and emails.

Youth Minister's Video

Our Youth Ministers have been busy producing a number of videos. This week's contribution is around the topic of *fun*. It highlights the need for our students to have experiences away from the screen through some inventive activities. There is also a recognition of R U OK Day towards the conclusion of the piece. Please view by clicking on the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/171VMldcRnp7hOoBCfrWLhcmjdtSHYJD0/view?usp=sharing>

The Crisis in Afghanistan

Many of us look with great dismay at the scenes that are unfolding in Afghanistan. Beyond our prayers, we also look for ways that we could offer practical support. Given below this letter is some information on this crisis and a possible way you may like to consider giving your support.

I will be back in communication with you early next week or beforehand should any changes to remote learning become known.

I wish you and the family every blessing

Per Vias Rectas



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

The Crisis in Afghanistan

THINK

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity and support for the local Afghan community and their families in Afghanistan in a [joint statement](#). Victoria is home to the largest number of Afghan-born people in Australia, and the bishops affirmed that 'Afghans hold an important place in the hearts of Victorians, especially at this difficult time.

In mid-August, The Secretary General of the United Nations, *António Guterres*, wrote: "...The world is following events in Afghanistan with a heavy heart and deep disquiet about what lies ahead....All of us have seen the images in real time. Chaos. Unrest. Uncertainty. And fear. Much lies in the balance. The progress. The hope. The dreams of a generation of young Afghan women and girls, boys, and men.

At this grave hour, I urge all parties, especially the Taliban, to exercise utmost restraint to protect lives and to ensure that humanitarian needs can be met. Conflict has forced hundreds of thousands from their homes. The capital city has seen a huge influx of internally displaced persons from provinces around the country where they felt insecure or fled during fighting. I remind all parties of their obligation to protect civilians. I call on all parties to provide humanitarians with unimpeded access to deliver timely and life-saving services and aid. And I also urge all countries to be willing to receive Afghan refugees and refrain from any deportations. Now is the time to stand as one...We cannot and must not abandon the people of Afghanistan".

PRAY

God of mercy, we pray

For conversion of mind and heart: that all people of good will overcome hatred and division.

For Afghani women and girls: that hard-fought-for freedoms will endure, and courage be placed in their hearts.

For Afghani staff who have supported Australian personnel since 2001: that security and safety be extended to them in practical solidarity.

For people in all world trouble spots, including Yemen, Haiti, and countries most impacted by COVID-19.

For people of all faith traditions: that they will put aside differences and seek justice and peace together.

For those who have died: that they will be held in God's loving embrace and continue to pray for all those in need.

Gracious and loving God, as we pray with all those who suffer today, may you be with them, and with us in this time. Amen.

(melbournecatholic.org)

ACT

Caritas Australia encourages us to offer practical support at this time of dire need as thousands of Afghans face poverty and displacement.

"Afghanistan has faced decades of unrest, drought and poverty. Your support is needed now.

- **Half of the population is in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection**
- **3.7 million children are out of school**
- **COVID-19 has overwhelmed the health system, with less than 1 per cent of the population fully vaccinated.**

The triple crisis of drought, COVID-19 and decades of instability leaves vulnerable families in a challenging situation

It is imperative that aid and development workers are able to ensure the safety of the Afghan people and the provision of basic needs”.

“Caritas Australia is providing support to the Caritas network in response to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan through our [Asia Regional Appeal](#). Donate today to provide aid and relief to humanitarian crises, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan.”



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