

COVID-19 Update

St Joseph's School is planning carefully to ensure the health and safety of all. Due to recent Ministry of Health and Education advice I would ask that students with compromised health do not attend school. Staff who have compromised health issues are also not attending school however at this stage we can fully staff the school. I would also remind you that if students have had contact with people who have travelled in the last 14 days that they also self isolate to ensure the health of all. It is our intention to maintain class programmes and ensure some normality for students whilst limiting close contact. We are also preparing in the event of a closure to provide resources and ongoing support to maintain learning opportunities for students.

Please ensure students have a drink bottle at school as we have closed the drinking fountains. Students can refill their bottles at school.

Prayer for a Pandemic

by Cameron Wiggins Bellm

*May we who are merely inconvenienced,
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.*

*May those who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose
between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May those who have the flexibility
to care for our children when schools close
remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel trips
remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May those who settle for quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.*

*As fear grips our country,
let us choose love during this time
when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,*



let us find ways to be the loving embrace to God and our neighbour.

Amen.

Guidance for parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers

Here is a useful link with ways to support children's anxiety

[Talking to children about COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\)](#)

Simple steps to protect your whanau and your community

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illnesses.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds* with soap and water and dry them thoroughly:
 - Before eating or handling food
 - After using the toilet
 - After coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
 - After caring for sick people.
 - If you don't have soap and water available, you can use an alcohol-based hand gel. Rub it all over your hands, including the backs of your hands and between your fingers. Rub it in until it dries.

*(As a guide for how long you should wash your hands for 20 seconds is about as long as it takes to sing two verses of 'Happy Birthday to you')

- Clean all hard surfaces regularly with disinfectant or diluted bleach (one teaspoon of bleach diluted with 500 ml of water) especially if someone in your household or workplace is unwell.
- Importantly, if you're sick please stay home.

We ask for your support by keeping unwell students at home.

This is a rapidly changing situation and we will endeavour to keep you fully informed.

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye.

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye
PRINCIPAL