

25 March 2019



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Thank you to all of our families for your support over the last weeks, especially over the last days. By now, students will have experienced conferencing with their teachers and received a timetable of conferencing schedules that begin following the school holiday period. The school holiday period across the country begins on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March until Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Conferencing between your child and teachers will begin on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 9 am (Week A) Period 1 Timetable. If any issues present, please refer to the communication that has been emailed to you called '**STUDENTS' LEARNING PROGRAMME WHILST SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE IS CLOSED**'.

This is an unprecedented event, and will continue to challenge us all. I iterate the words of the Prime Minister – be kind, keep safe, and look after each other. To support you with '**Keeping Spirits High – Wellbeing COVID-19**' please visit our '**COVID-19**' PAGE of the school website, where you will find a number of links, information and advice to support you and your family.

If a positive case of COVID-19 is identified for a member of staff or student at our school, I will be notified by the Ministry of Health who will work with me around the next steps and I would be in communication with you. It is important that your child(ren) are kept isolated during the period we are all in lockdown and do not leave your home to socialise with other students. Please follow this very clear instruction that has been given to all of us to keep your family safe. I have been made aware this afternoon, that children must not be going to play grounds in the community or on any school site. These sites may not be safe.

**A prayer in this time of challenge.**

**God of Love**, we turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

**Generous and Merciful God**, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

**Healing God**, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

**God of Strength**, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

**God of Wisdom**, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

**O God of creation and God of life**, we place ourselves, our school community and our world in your protection and love. May your peace be with use and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead.

We make our prayer through the intercession of Mary our Mother, and all the saints.

Lord God, pray for us, Amen.

I will be in contact again with you towards the end of the holiday period. In the meantime, keep well and keep safe.

With Blessings to you all

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'L. J. Moore'.

Louise Moore

**Principal and Spiritual Leader**