

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The safety, health and wellbeing of our students and staff is paramount and we continue to work with the relevant authorities to monitor and respond to the developments of COVID-19.

The National Cabinet last night committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice that it is safe to keep schools open.

Following this advice, I confirm that our **Catholic schools will remain open** until the end of Term One.

Our schools are open to support students whose parents choose to send them to school.

For "practical reasons", NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced this morning (23 March) that whilst schools remain open, she is encouraging any parents that are in a position to keep their children home, to do so.

We remain committed to Commonwealth Government strategies to contain COVID-19 and our gates will remain open.

Parents and carers are asked to assess their individual circumstances and to decide what they feel is best for their families in this situation.

We continue to work to provide accurate information to our school communities as quickly as we can. A pandemic of this scale is unprecedented, each situation is different and the Government position can shift rapidly. Our plans will continue to change as the COVID-19 unfolds.

A daily updated is provided at 4pm on our CSO website – www.mn.catholic.edu.au.

Your concerns or any questions are always welcome and I ask you, at an initial point, to speak with your school Principal.

Yours sincerely



Gerard Mowbray

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS