



27 November 2020

Dear parents and families in our Cairns Catholic school communities

As we rapidly draw close to the end of a school year like no other I would again like to thank you for your support, cooperation and understanding as we collectively responded to the challenges of the pandemic. Our region has clearly escaped the worst health effects of COVID-19 but the regional economic impacts continue to be a concern. It looks like it may take some time to see a full economic recovery.

For those families directly impacted we have maintained automatic 100% tuition fee discounts for the holders of eligible government concession cards, and this will continue into Terms 1 and 2 in 2021. For those without an eligible card but who are experiencing financial stress our Principals are able to provide similar support, with compassion and respecting family privacy. Our policy has always been that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of family financial hardship – this year we have been living that policy each and every day.

This year has been remarkable in that our teachers and students have so readily adapted to new ways of schooling and we have all grown through that experience. What we may have lost in some formal schooling we have more than gained in accepting new responsibilities and finding a capacity to rise to new challenges. We are all stronger for that experience.

We do not know for sure how 2021's school year will get up and running. We do know that 25 January will be a pupil free day and that school will commence on Wednesday 27 January. We also know, barring unforeseen developments, that our new Prep parents will be welcomed into our schools to help settle their Preppies in the first days of school. In entering the school grounds we ask you to comply with your school's COVID-safe practices.

Apart from that we urge you to maintain your COVID-safe hygiene and maintain safe distances. Get tested if you experience COVID symptoms. Be vigilant in your travels and holiday activities. Above all, enjoy a well earned break.

And as we end this troubled year, we might also have cause to remember that Jesus was born in troubled times but from that birth came an enduring story of faith, hope and goodwill. Stay close to your families and have a joyous Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Bill Dixon
Executive Director

