



# ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR

90 HIGH STREET, TELEPHONE (03) 5792 2611, FACSIMILE (03) 5792 4091, P.O. BOX 269, SEYMOUR VICTORIA 3661

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

**Re: Mitchell Shire Stage 3 Covid-19 Restrictions: Arrangements for Term 3 Week 1.**



*2020 continues to test our resolve and may 'God give us all the strength to do what is necessary.'*  
*Together as a College community we will navigate the oncoming weeks.*

As per the Victorian Government and CECV guidelines the following will apply for Week 1 at St Mary's College:

There will be five (5) student-free days from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

1. Students whose parents/carers cannot work from home or those who are vulnerable (at risk) can attend the College in Week 1.
2. A form will be made available via Care Monkey and must be completed by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 3.00pm** if **on-site supervision is required in Week 1**. **NOTE:** the form **does not** require a response for **children being supervised at home**.
3. Please be aware that there will be no teaching in Week 1. A program of care and supervision will be provided. The canteen will be closed.
4. Students in Year 10 VCE Unit 1 Mathematics will be contacted by Mrs Gordon for Week 1 arrangements.

Teachers and staff in Week 1 will be preparing for a possible return to remote and flexible learning from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Covid-19 Update No. 11** will be emailed to all families (with more detailed information for beyond Week 2) as soon as CECV provides further updates.

Please find enclosed a letter from Archbishop of Melbourne Archdiocese Peter A Comensoli.

We live in a time of uncertainty. Since the beginning of Term 2 I have referred to, '*the goal posts are moving daily*' and '*Covid-19 brings questions followed by more questions*'. The College will continue to do everything we can to support families; mitigate the impact of change and put in place effective learning practices for each child's learning journey.

Best wishes and stay well.

**Wayne Smith**  
**Principal**

*DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) Bed (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)*  
*GradDipRed (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies (BBITAITE)*



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

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07 July 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Today's decision to place metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire areas back into Stage 3 lockdown for the next six weeks from 11.59pm Wednesday 8 July is sobering news. It is truly disheartening, and will bring renewed distress to so many families and individuals.

These words from Psalm 22 have come immediately to my mind (words that were on the lips of Jesus as he was crucified): *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.* (Ps 22.1-2)

Yet, I want to encourage you in grace, trusting in the abiding closeness of our loving Lord, who promised to be with us always.

In returning to Stage 3 restrictions in those specific areas, sadly the public celebration of Mass, which we have only just re-commenced, will need to go back to live-streaming; churches will need to be closed again to any private prayer; and the numbers allowed for funerals and weddings will be severely limited.

We expect specific details around the restrictions will be released by the civil authorities over the next 24 hours, and will be communicated to you as soon as possible. I ask for your patience in the meantime.

Now is a time for attentiveness to the care of one another. In the face of our own despondency and fears, our fatigue and anxieties, may we learn to hold firm in faith and hope, and experience sustaining moments of love. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews encouraged: *Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works.* (Heb 24.10)

Friends, while the Psalmist knew struggle and pain, there were also words of confidence that came from the heart: *In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.* (Ps 22.4-5)

May our Lord Jesus be with you, and may His Blessed Mother accompany us all.  
With every grace and blessing, I remain, Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne

