



Dear Parents and Caregivers

27 April 2020

Greetings to you as we navigate through these unprecedented times. We are all experiencing life in a way that we would never have imagined. I do hope that you and all those in your bubble during this time of lockdown are well.

I know that there are people in our community who will be suffering in a variety of ways during this time including financially. I want to let you know that we are looking at how we can support families in need at this time with regards to the Attendance Dues for our Catholic schools.

Invoices for Attendance Dues and the Catholic Special Character contribution will be issued by the parish in the next week or two. If you are in a situation where you have suffered a significant loss of income due to Covid 19 we ask that you contact your parish priest. They will have information about how financial assistance can be provided at this time.

It is very hard to know what the long term effects of all this disruption will be. We will continue to review and reassess what the needs of families are. This will be done on a term by term basis as the country moves through the alert levels and ultimately returns to 'normal' in whatever form that may look like in the future.

While we are all adjusting to a different way of living and working during the Covid alert levels, I want to acknowledge the work of all those in the front line keeping us safe, caring for our loved ones and also our teachers who do a wonderful job in caring for and educating our children. The diocesan education team are working closely with our schools to support our teachers in delivering the curriculum in an online format. These are challenging times for us all.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. I want us to do all we can to ensure that our young people are able to receive the Catholic education which will help them to become the people of faith they are created to be.

Yours in Christ

+ Paul Martin SM
Catholic Bishop of Christchurch