



Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives



Principal's Message ...

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St Edmund's,

EASTER: As we approach the end of Lent and prepare for Easter, we are asked to be part of a process of reflecting on the ongoing story of our own life, in the context of remembering and reliving the story of Jesus in his last days. The days of Lent have been a time for self-reflection, the days ahead follow a familiar story: Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; Holy Thursday and the Last Supper with the apostles – retold each time mass is celebrated; followed by his agony of self-doubt in the Garden of Gethsemane, his abandonment by the apostles and betrayal by Judas; on Good Friday his 'trial', carrying of the cross through the streets and execution on the cross; his entombment and, on Easter Sunday, his inexplicable and incomprehensible Resurrection from death to life.

Throughout Christian history, the best way to understand this, has not merely been to know the facts of the story, but to immerse oneself in them through the various liturgies and masses which cover these events every year at Easter, because they bring each story to life again through prayer, ritual and re-enactment. From the young to the old, the best way to connect our own life story to that of Jesus and all the depth of his experiences during those days and what it reveals about the reality of our own existence, is by sharing in this ancient and living season and what it offers, particularly by involvement through your local parish and its schedule of events over Easter which are now on-line given our current context:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKfvfKCA_03_5_pg0lkbaPQ

STAFFING: We farewell and give thanks to the dedicated service of Dennis Zaronias (Grounds Staff) and Sue Ottery (College Nurse) who complete their roles at the end of this term. Both positions have been advertised and I will advise the College community of their replacements. We thank both Dennis and Sue for their work and know that they will be greatly missed by the staff, students and parents.

EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT OUT 2020: After consultation with Eddie's Mates and the College Board, we have made the heartbreaking decision to cancel this year's Eddie's Big Night Out that was scheduled for June 2020. Our first priority is keeping everyone safe and limiting the spread of COVID-19.

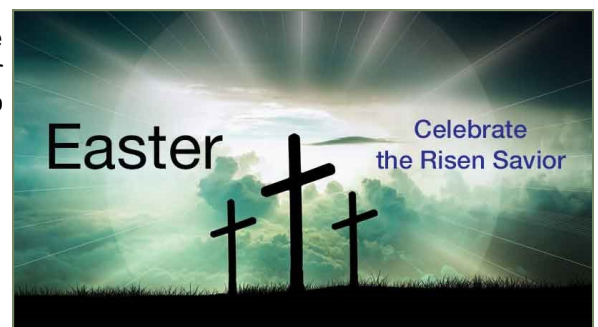
Rescheduling the event to later in the year and/or moving to an online fundraiser have been considered, however we are very mindful that our parent and business communities are facing challenging times and it would be irresponsible for us to assume support will return later in the year.

Instead, we are redirecting our efforts and reimagining the way forward with what Eddie's Big Night Out 2021 could look like. Our mission of providing St Edmund's students with a rich and exciting program has not changed. The silver lining will be the time we can regroup as a community and celebrate all things 'Eddie's'.

As this is the final Newsletter for the term, I hope everyone has a blessed Easter and I will provide regular updates over the next few weeks in relation to Term 2 and our approach to schooling during these complex and unprecedented times.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Jon Franzin
PRINCIPAL





Deputy Principal's Message ...

Term 1: Our first term is quickly coming to an end. This has been a very disrupted term with Covid-19 causing great changes to our routines and structures. However our students have shown how resilient they can be and have risen to the challenge of online learning at home. While we do not know how long this will continue, we can be confident that our students are eager to learn and be connected with their College community. In the event that we are at home next term, we will continue to use Microsoft Teams to enable ongoing learning materials and also real connections with teachers and peers. I wish everyone a holy and hope-filled Easter time, as we celebrate this important season at home together.

Protocols and Etiquette for Online Learning: Parents are reminded to check their child's iPad while they are engaged in online learning. This term the learning material is being emailed to you by your Homeroom teacher for all subjects. If online learning continues into Term 2 we will be moving to Microsoft Teams platform which enables teachers and students to engage in learning materials and also wellbeing connections. More information will be sent home regarding Term 2 online learning. Also attached to this Newsletter is some guidance around parent norms for communication during this online learning situation. In this new world of school, work and home, our partnership is central in ensuring that our young people remain happy, connected and engaged.

Personalised Plan Meetings: The Personalised Plan bookings remain open until the end of term. Parents are asked to make a booking so that Personalised Plans can be finalised. As bookings are held during the school day please make a booking by emailing your Homeroom teacher so that a mutual time for a phone call meeting can be arranged. We hope to finalise all PP meetings by the end of term and documents will be sent home mid Term 2.

Year 7/8 Camp: Each year, St Edmund's College holds an annual school camp for all students. Due to the Covid-19 situation we have had to cancel the Camp for next term. We ask however that permission forms are still completed and sent in so as to allow us to reschedule the Camp later in the year if the current situation changes and there is availability at the venue.

Jason Scanlon
Deputy Principal



Eddies IT help desk has been formed to support parents with their online connections. The address is eddie.helpdesk@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au



Mission and Identity

In the last Newsletter, we journeyed through the story of Holy Week with Jesus. We remembered his Passion and death. It was a particularly sad story and some of our students became visibly upset when we watched some videos of the story in our RE classes last week.

The great news is that the Easter story is a great story of JOY! Even though we will not be able to celebrate the amazing Easter Vigil mass this year in our church communities please take some time as a family to reflect upon the story of the Resurrection and share this story with your children.

On the Sunday morning following the death of Jesus, Mary Magdalene visited the tomb. She had brought ointment and spices with her. She was going to anoint Jesus' body.

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they have put him!'. Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth, which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture, which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

- John 20:1-10

Jesus first appeared before Mary Magdalene. She believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. She told the disciples that she had seen Jesus, but they did not believe her. Jesus' death and resurrection had left the disciples afraid and confused. Jesus appeared before the disciples many times. He wanted to reassure them that he was indeed alive. On Easter Sunday evening, Jesus appeared before the disciples as they were having dinner. They had locked the doors, because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus showed them his hands and the side where the soldiers had pierced him. The disciples were amazed and astonished to see Jesus. They were overcome with joy and happiness.



On Easter Sunday afternoon, Jesus appeared before two disciples as they were walking towards a town called Emmaus. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognise him. He asked them why they were looking so sad. The disciples told Jesus about all the things that had happened to their master. Jesus listened patiently to them. Then he explained everything about himself. The disciples learnt so much about Jesus on that day. When they arrived at Emmaus, the disciples invited the stranger to come inside their house. Jesus accepted their invitation. As they were about to share bread together, Jesus took a piece of bread, blessed it and broke it. At that instant, the disciples realised that the stranger was none other than Jesus!

By dying on the cross, Jesus became our Saviour.
By his resurrection, Jesus became our Redeemer.

Happy Easter everybody. Let's walk with Jesus, listen to his words and share his love with each other everyday.

You can participate in mass at the Hornsby Cathedral through YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwfl7i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>

God Bless you all as we journey together through these unusual times.

Terry O'Keefe
Head of Mission and Identity



Relationships Matter

During this time of uncertainty, issues and conflicts may arise as a result of families spending more time together in confined spaces. The following LATE model is an effective model you can use if you observe your children struggling with issues as a result of all the changes in their lives.

Listen
Acknowledge
Talk about options
End with Encouragement

Listen

- Thank the student for sharing the information with you
- Ask open-ended questions
- Be careful not to interrogate
- Allowing for silences is okay
- Paraphrase what the student has said to you

Acknowledge

- Repeat the information in your own words
- Use reassuring statements- "that sounds pretty tough"
- Demonstrate empathy by making statements such as "I can see you are really upset about what has happened"

Talk About Options

- Students want to feel in control of their own problems
- Ask the student what s/he has already tried and if it has worked
- Ask the student what they would like you to do to help/support them
- Ask the student if it is okay for you to give him/her suggestions

End with Encouragement

- End with an encouraging statement which gives the student a feeling of hope
- Explain that if s/he would like to come back and talk with you again they are very welcome

Here are some websites that you may find useful over the next few weeks, especially if your child is experiencing anxiety due to the dramatic changes that are occurring in their lives.

APS:

Tips for coping with COVID-19

<https://www.psychology.org.au/getmedia/38073179-4701-48bd-afd9-988c560ee2f9/20APS-IS-COVID-19-P1.pdf>

Beyond Blue:

Information to help with mental health issues such as stress, depression and anxiety in relation to COVID-19

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Headspace:

Information aimed at supporting teenagers and young people

<https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

Reach Out:

Self-care strategies for young people

<https://au.reachout.com/articles/10-ways-to-take-care-of-yourself-during-coronavirus>

If you would like any more information, please email me at houlcroft@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au .

Karen Houlcroft
Head of Pastoral Care



Community News

From the Parent Group

If your house is anything like ours you would have been experiencing a week of disorientation - kids at home, work from home, all entertainment at home, explaining social distancing and not seeing extended family and friends and a fear of "corona". All huge concepts for us and our typical kids but even harder ones for our special needs children to understand.

Our kids enjoy the routine of school, socialisation and engagement with one another. As parents, we find the enormity of what lies ahead a little overwhelming with not just school closing but also the activities outside of school not running. This is a challenging time for us all. One like no other. May I suggest that we continue with what I mentioned at the beginning of the year - our theme of **FRIENDSHIP**.

We need to support each other in ways we haven't thought of. Use class lists, ring a fellow parent, check in on them, see how they are coping, or get ideas on how to make our children engage in learning at home. Encourage some FaceTime, Zoom or Skype chats (supervised of course) with fellow class friends.... even regular Zoom sessions with Mums, even Dads can have their own Zoom too.

Most of all, if you need help or someone to talk to, please reach out. We are all in this together, now more than ever. Look after yourself. Eat and drink properly, go for a walk, take this opportunity to rest, and do something each day that makes you and your family smile ... and turn off the news sometimes!

In all that we do remember to **"Be bold! Be Strong! For the Lord your God is with you!" (Joshua 1:19).**



Janine Eastham – Tom's mum
Parent Group
Leader



Entertainment Book Memberships are now available and are 100% digital.
No more lugging around that heavy book!

A great gift for Mother's Day!

Stay-at-home benefits of the membership, including Hello Fresh, My Foodie Box and Woolworths. Please go to

<https://www.entbook.com.au/206u674>



Around the College - Important Dates and Changes

Term 1

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|-------------|---|
| Mon 6th Apr | Year 7 Immunisation to be rescheduled |
| Wed 8th Apr | 2019 Year 12 Reunion (pizza night) to be rescheduled |
| Wed 8th Apr | Last day of Term 1 |
| Thu 9th Apr | Pupil free day |

Term 2

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|-------------------------|---|
| Mon 27th Apr | Students return to Term 2 to be confirmed |
| Tue 28th Apr | ANZAC Day Ceremony – cancelled |
| Fri 1st May | Edmund Rice Day celebrations - Mass and BBQ lunch cancelled |
| Fri 8th May | Mother's Day Liturgy and Morning Tea cancelled |
| Tue 13th May | Year 10 Immunisation to be confirmed |
| Fri 15th May | Term 2 College Disco cancelled |
| Tue 26th May | Term 2 Parent Group Meeting cancelled |
| Tue 2nd Jun | Term 2 Mufti Day |
| Fri 5th Jun | Staff Day (pupil free day) cancelled - normal school day |
| Mon 8th Jun | Queen's Birthday public holiday |
| Tue 9th June | Students' school photos |
| Tue 9th Jun | Term 2 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's) cancelled |
| Sat 13th Jun | Eddie's Big Night Out (Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills) cancelled |
| Wed 10th - Fri 12th Jun | Years 7 & 8 Camp to be rescheduled if possible |
| Fri 26th Jun | RFS Cadet & Leadership Award Assembly cancelled |
| Fri 26th Jun | Last day of Term 2 |

Term 3

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|-------------------------|--|
| Mon 20th Jul | Students & Staff return to Term 3 |
| Fri 7th Aug | Term 3 College Disco |
| | Senior Information Evening |
| Tue 11th Aug | Term 3 Mufti Day |
| Wed 19th Aug | St Edmund's Golf Day |
| Wed 26th Aug | Term 3 Men's Group Meeting (St Edmund's) |
| Fri 4th Sep | Father's Day Breakfast |
| Tue 8th Sep | Term 3 Parent Group Meeting |
| Tue 1st Sep | St Edmund's Athletics Carnival |
| Sun 13th Sep | Family Fun Day (St Edmund's field) |
| Wed 23rd - Fri 25th Sep | Senior Retreat |
| Fri 25th Sep | Last day of Term 3 |

Term 4

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|--------------|--|
| Mon 12th Oct | Students return to Term 4 |
| Mon 14th Oct | Year 7 Immunisation |
| Tue 20th Oct | St Edmund's Swimming Carnival |
| Fri 23rd Oct | Term 4 College Disco |
| | Wed 28th Oct - Fri 30th Nov Years 9 & 10 Camp |
| Tue 3rd Nov | Term 4 Mufti Day |
| Tue 3rd Nov | Term 4 Parent Group Meeting |
| Tue 10th Nov | Orientation Day |
| Tue 17th Nov | Term 4 Men's Group Meeting (St Lucy's) |
| Fri 20th Nov | Abbotsleigh Concert |
| Fri 27th Nov | Year 12 Graduation Formal |
| Tue 1st Dec | Presentation Ceremony |
| Wed 9th Dec | Year 12 Farewell Mass & BBQ lunch and Last day of Term 4 |

Prayer

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

but,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi, people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the west of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today, a young woman I know is busy spreading flyers with her number through her neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today, Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality to how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To love...

So we pray and we remember that yes there is fear but there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic, the birds are singing again.

The sky is clearing.

Spring is coming

and we are always encompassed by love.

Open the windows of your soul and although you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing...

Fr Richard Hendricks *OFM*

**Social distancing only works
if we all participate.
And slowing down or preventing
the spread of the virus
will save lives.**



**We all are responsible for protecting
those at higher risk.**

Parent/Carers Off Campus Online Communication Norms



General College Communication to Parents

General College communications to parents are facilitated through:

- the on-line publication of our fortnightly newsletter;
- updates on our public website;
- updates through Class Do Jo;
- College Facebook page
- the College calendar;
- All families have connection to Microsoft Teams learning platform, notes and other written communications provided to students can be accessed by parents to assist your child in the learning activities. This will be operational after once we fully move off Campus.
- Teams will be used by Homeroom teachers to chat to student by asking for an emoji icon each day to support student wellbeing – no written communication is made via chat by students or parents.
- Homeroom teachers will make a wellbeing phone call each week to parents.
- Emails from the Principal, members of the Executive, Administration or Homeroom teacher highlighting important information usually pertaining to the whole College, or Homeroom
- Letters by post – used where email is not possible or is deemed inappropriate.

Parent Initiated Communications with Teachers

A reminder that our teachers are also parents and in an off campus online situation homeroom teachers may not be always available.

As a matter of general guidance:

- Enquiries relating to specific educational issues should be addressed to a student's homeroom teacher.
- General curriculum enquiries can be addressed to the relevant KLA coordinator or Director Teaching and Learning or via your Homeroom Teacher.
- Pastoral care enquiries can be addressed to a student's Homeroom Teacher or the Head of Pastoral Care or Deputy Principal.
- When seeking to arrange a phone meeting, parents should arrange a suitable time via email with their homeroom teacher.

Communication using Microsoft Teams

Teams is an important learning platform allowing for communications with students, parents and teachers. Each Homeroom is a Team. The Homeroom Teacher will 'chat' each morning communicating with their students and asking for a response using an emoji symbol only. The Teams app will be engaged with further if off campus learning continues into Term 2.

Parent & student norms for the use of Teams:

- Written comments, uploaded images are not encouraged and will not be replied too.
- Parent supervision is encouraged to prevent the use of 'chat', 'calling' or 'videoing calling'.
- Sharing of images with fellow students is not encouraged please be vigilant, see Technology and Mobile Phone use – Student Contract Policy
- Private chatting with fellow students is not encouraged please be vigilant, see Technology and Mobile Phone use – Student Contract Policy
- Homeroom teachers will only communicate to parents and students via emails

Courteous and Respectful Behaviour

- St Edmund's teachers and staff endeavour to be courteous and respectful with our students, parents and our wider community. We also expect students, parents and others to be courteous and respectful with our staff, especially to set an example for their children especially online via emails.
- Parents are expected to abide by the College's Communication, Technology and Mobile Phones and Technology and Mobile Phone use – Student Contract Policy at all times and in particular all communications with teachers and College staff should be approached in a calm and non-aggressive manner.

Enquiries and Complaints- Rights and Responsibilities

- If a parent is dissatisfied with the conduct or outcome of their communications with a teacher or College Leader or other member of staff they may lodge a formal complaint which will be dealt with in accordance with our Resolution of Complaints Policy which is available on our public website.
<https://www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au>

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Homeroom Teachers:

| | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 7T | Tracey Snell | snell@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| 7S | Eva Southern | esouthern@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| 8C | Teresa Cox | cox@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
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| 12O | Terry O'Keefe | okeefe@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |

KLA Coordinators:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mark Fawkner – HSIE | fawkner@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Rachel Hopkins – Science | hopkins@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Tiffany Hosken – English | hosken@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Sheena Macdonald – Maths & RE | macdonald@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Cherie Pisani – TAS | pisani@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Margriet Shaw-Taylor – Creative Arts | shaw-taylor@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Carl Southern – Languages | southern@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |

Executive:

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|---|--|
| Jon Franzin – Principal | franzin@erses.nsw.edu.au |
| Jason Scanlon – Deputy Principal | scanlon@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
| Marilyn Noonan – Business Manager | bursar@erses.nsw.edu.au |
| Karen Houlcroft – Head of Pastoral Care | houlcroft@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au |
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