



# St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 27

Friday 17 April 2020

## Vision Statement

*St Patrick's College, Silverstream is a boys' school of excellence, founded on Catholic and Marist values and traditions where students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable them to become compassionate, just and successful citizens. Our students are challenged and motivated to achieve personal excellence in an innovative learning environment enhanced by tradition, superb facilities, quality teaching and a supportive College community*



Tēnā koutou katoa, Greetings everyone

I hope this Newsletter finds you all safe and well. A lot can happen in 24 hours in our current environment. Like you I listened yesterday to the announcement of what the conditions will operate under a Level 3 Alert for Schools.

Since the announcement I have received emails predicting all sorts of outcomes and scenarios. Principals and School organisations are trying to clarify the situation and quite rightly so.

As a College I am concerned that we maintain as best we can our well-being. There is a strong message to not create an environment of anxiety when it comes to the expectations of online learning and to make sure our students' well-being is at the forefront of our focus. As we are a Catholic special character College I 100% agree with this approach. As we progress we will have information from Monday's announcement from our Government about COVID-19 and what this will mean for the College moving forward.

During this week there have been numerous Board meetings regarding the College and I thank members of both Boards for their time and energy at a difficult time. Meetings are being held as required as the situation develops.

A number of Boarding parents will have questions about What is happening? Please be advised that the Board of Proprietors are very much aware of the situation and as information becomes available and definite time frames are advised they will communicate decisions to the Boarding Community.

Can I thank everyone staff, parents, students for their efforts this week. The College is not operating normally and may continue like this for a while. I hope you all get some peace and rest over the weekend.

Below is how I see things at present but it will change.

### Latest Update re: COVID-19 and Alert Level 4

As of writing we are still at Alert Level 4. Schools are closed and the country is in complete Lockdown other than essential services. You will no doubt have heard the Prime Minister outline the [high level descriptions of COVID-19 alert levels](#), with a focus on [alert level 3](#).

**Please note:** We are still at Alert Level 4.

There is currently a lot of speculation and anxiety around the implications of moving to Level 3, specifically around what this means for schools and education.

Many of the comments/concerns/anxiety come from a place of fear, anxiety, stress and confusion. Totally understandable. I am sure that you will all have your own questions and concerns about the way forward.

**Please, try to resist the temptation to "guess" what will happen.** There is a lot to be decided and worked through before the College reopens in any format. The Boards and Senior Leadership Team continue to work through this.

**Until next Monday there is no point speculating or worrying.** The government has some major decisions to make and there is a lot that is out of the College's control. The latest emails I have from the Ministry clearly states that they are working on guidelines and details and that schools will be supported as necessary.

**We will have time and you will all be informed as we move forward.** We are hoping that from next Monday we will have clear guidelines of how our country is to move forward.

Messages from Fr John Walls SM, College Priest (*please click on the link below*)

**Message 1**

<https://youtu.be/hYhKT88z8ME>

**Message 2**

<https://youtu.be/P31YXuYiYUQ>

Have a good weekend and stay safe.

Ngā mihi

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy  
Rector