



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein

Reg. No. 1277

27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

## URGENT COMMUNICATION

Dear Families,

As many of you would have no doubt heard, Victoria is entering another lockdown for the next 7 days, beginning at 11:59pm on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May.

This is a very frustrating prospect for many of us but is a necessary “circuit breaker” as the premier has stated.

As part of the restrictions that have been introduced, **schools will be closed**, but open for vulnerable children and the children of essential workers.

At this stage, we have been given the following directive by the Catholic Education Office of Ballarat:

***TOMORROW, FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY WILL BE A DESIGNATED PUPIL-FREE PLANNING DAY.*** This will allow staff to prepare for the remainder of the lockdown, but with an understanding that the lockdown could be extended.

*Monday to Thursday of next week will be designated remote learning days and work packs will be available to be picked up between 1.30 and 4.30pm tomorrow or from 8am Monday.*

*Our main concern is the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school communities. This should be the focus of all local decisions made. There is no expectation that schools will be able to deliver full remote learning programs as there simply has been no time to prepare for this.*

*Schools will need to remain next week for face-to-face learning for vulnerable students and children of essential workers as per Victorian Stage Four restrictions.*

This means that on Monday to Thursday of next week, those students who can remain at home, must do so. If you are planning on sending your child to school next week, please email your intentions to [admin@olshmerbein.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@olshmerbein.catholic.edu.au) **by 1.30pm tomorrow so that supervision can be arranged.** Please refer to the list of essential workers available on the Victorian Government Website.

Please stay tuned to our Facebook Page and our Schoolbag and SeeSaw Apps as well as your email for any updates that come through.

We hope that this 7-day Lockdown will be all that is needed and that we can all return to school next Friday to resume learning.

I thank you for your understanding,

Narelle Gallagher.