

# from the principal



## EASTER MESSAGE - REMEMBERING GOD'S LOVE

It is very easy to be distracted by the recent and daily developments related to COVID-19. I wish I could give you all some certainty about term 2 but I simply cannot. What I can tell you with absolute certainty is that our teachers and administrators and all our staff are preparing for a number of possibilities. As a parent of the college, it is a great relief to know that my kids are in great hands.

As we approach the most important season of the Christian calendar, it is vitally important to reflect on the true essence of this season and to bolster our faith, and to reflect upon the Bible as our source of inspiration. In it we read the account of God's love for us throughout the history of the world. Many people think of Jesus as the start and the end of the Christian narrative, yet the references to Christ's death on the cross occur throughout the Bible on many occasions. Indeed it is the symbolism that is often ignored that we need to understand as we see how important it is to our understanding of Christ's death on the cross.

In Leviticus, Chapter 16, we read that God instructed Moses and his brother Aaron to select two goats every year for an offering. One was used as a sin offering to atone for the sins of the people. Once killed, the blood of the goat was sprinkled on the seat of the altar, so that God would have mercy on the people and forgive their sins. The second goat was allowed to live, but the high priest would lay his hands on the head of the goat and confess the sins of the people. This goat would then bear the blame for the transgressions of the people and would be set free into the wilderness where God would remember their sins no more. This is hugely symbolic and this goat became known as the 'scapegoat.'

Jewish history records that it was also a common practice to tie a red strip of cloth to the scapegoat as a representation of the red blood that was sprinkled on the altar. In time this red strip of cloth would turn white representing that God had accepted the offering. This ritual happened every year and was the connection that the Jewish people had with God. References to this are found in other books of the Bible, including Isaiah and Hebrews.

Jesus came as the High Priest himself. Not with the blood of goats or calves but with his own blood for the atonement of all our sins. As we read the New Testament, we see how Jesus was the son of God and He had all power, all knowledge and all authority. As we read about the crucifixion, the reference to the goat's blood becomes far more relevant. The crown of thorns placed on Christ's head would have resulted in blood streaming down His face, symbolic of the piece of cloth tied to the scapegoat. His death on the cross once and for all paid the price for all of our sins and His resurrection to life grants us all eternal salvation.

As we enter into the Easter period, please take the time to remember that the Christian story is not just about the 33 years of Jesus' life on earth. It is so much more. It is a collection of incredible stories of how God has lived with, protected and guided His people over centuries and through many different people. The most magnificent outcome of all of this was that he gave His only son to die on a cross for all our sins. There is no greater love. Through His death and resurrection, we can all restore our relationship with God and gain the right to eternal life.

....cont'd

# from the principal cont'd

Many folk are finding themselves a bit lost in these troubling times. Could the greatest gift this Easter be your message to them about the power and love of the life of Jesus – telling them about who He was and describing for them the transformation He can make in our own lives, in our state and in our nation. Personally, when I see our PM talk about his leadership and his need in God I know that I am much more certain of our future. I pray that if you have more questions about this man called Jesus that you also find an online church this week.

Have a wonderful holiday break!

Shalom,  
*Andrew Jones*

The best place for you to get the latest information from the federal government about the virus and how you should respond as a school is best found on the Department of Education and Training website

<https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19?12=>



We have 365 members signed up to our ACC Community Facebook page. Join in on the conversations, questions and comments which are helping to build our community.

**Request today to join ACC Community page.**

TO OUR COLLEGE FAMILIES



HAVE A  
BLESSED  
EASTER

Celebrate the Easter season  
with a heart full of joy and peace.

# PRAYER POINTS

- Thanksgiving for our amazing staff who have stepped up and exceeded all expectations in the last few weeks.
- Prayer for wisdom and discernment for our country's leaders. Give them strength to sustain them through this time.
- Prayer for our essential workers, especially those in medical fields on the frontlines of the pandemic, and for their families. Protect their health, give them strength, courage and hope.
- Pray for those who have lost their jobs or businesses – for Your provision for them and peace in the knowledge that You are in control.
- Prayer for our College leaders, that they would continue to find peace in the knowledge of God's presence and for guidance in decision making.
- Pray for the extended Schneider family members who are unwell.
- Pray for our students and their families – for protection from illness, guard them from fear and give them peace.
- Prayer for the Student Free week – that the teachers would be able to complete the tasks required so that they can have peace of mind and much needed rest in the holidays.
- Prayer for the safety and health of our staff and the remaining students of essential workers.
- Prayer for our families as they transition to online/alternative learning – that the kids would adapt easily and that it would not be a stressful process for parents.
- Prayer for our families who will be spending a lot more time together, for the Lord to reign in their hearts and households and bring His peace, despite the circumstances.
- Prayer for those families going through the trauma of cancer at this time.
- Prayer for those families and staff affected by changes to the rules around weddings (9 staff directly affected) as well as their extended families here at the college.
- Prayer for wisdom and discernment in knowing how to support others in our community even if to simply bring hope and a smile.