



Good morning parents, students, staff, dear friends of Loreto Normanhurst, I hope you've had a lovely week.

I come to you this week from the boundaries of our beautiful oval, and how blessed are we to have this marvellous bush, native bush, fringing our grounds. We've chosen this spot today in acknowledgement of World Environment Day, and really our responsibility to people and persons always begins in our own backyard. What a blessing it is for us to have the beautiful grounds that we do here at Loreto, and in particular to have this marvellous bush, which Mother Gonzaga Barry referred to as "the delight of the children of Loreto Normanhurst, abounding as it does in fern gullies, little lakes and rivulets, rocks, caves and wild flowers." I'm not sure if you can still see them, but I can hear them, a Year 8 class has just made its way down to the fringes of that bush and how beautiful that we can interact with our natural environment on World Environment Day.

Of course, there's been a whole lot of activity here at the school in the last couple of weeks since I last spoke with you. This week we concluded our own activities in acknowledging Reconciliation Week which of course began following National Sorry Day where as a nation we acknowledged the wrongs of the past and it concluded this week with Mabo Day acknowledging that landmark decision of the highest court of the land that said terra nullius was no more.

It's been a significant time for us here at the school and I've been really touched by the reflections of our girls as they've gone through the learning activities associated with the week. A few in particular have sat with me, confirming the importance of our commitment to reconciliation, as a Loreto school, and our commitment to the education of Aboriginal students, with some comments about the fact that were it not for that very program, some students and families wouldn't have any interactions with girls who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, but they do so through the boarding school and through their everyday classes and houses. So, we make our ongoing commitment to work for justice and reconciliation, as well acknowledging the heartbreak, that has occurred in the last week or so as well as up in the Pilbara, and in downtown Sydney.

The rest of the activity, really is, at that beyond the middle point of term two and it's so good to have learning back in learning spaces and in relationships. Of course, it's time for assessment and it is the right time of the school year when those periods pick up, and it's an important time to remember that assessment is part of learning, and it's for learning. Learning which in our holistic philosophy of how to make sense of the world, is for life, and not just for this one moment in time. So, I really affirm the work of all our students and teachers in preparing girls for this important time of the term, and in getting through this significant phase. So well done to students there.

We've also picked up a Rec program in preparation for what term three school sport may be; there's a lot of planning going on there, in association with other sporting associations. I'd like to acknowledge the work of our sports department there and as Greta said at Assembly last week, stay tuned, for what might be coming in that space.

Good luck to our CSDA debaters and public speakers as they head into the finals, which are going to take place via video in the next few days and weeks and I wish you all well, girls.



There's been a great expression, and I've been really quite touched at the moment with the expression of gratitude and generosity in our community. I'd like to thank those parents who've are behind the Year 11 girls work in their discerned cause for Loreto Day, for ACRATH, and in the activities that the girls are preparing. As we know, Loreto Day is going to be a little different this year. I think the girls have more of a bit of a festival of Loreto Day happening so that we're able to engage with the advocacy work, the awareness raising and also the activities that will raise funds for our cause and so I'd like to acknowledge the parents who have also been able to contribute to prizes etc that the girls are now organising for us.

There has also been so much expression of gratitude and generosity happening through the kindness rocks and pebbles in the primary school, and this morning I received a random anonymous gift of a Kit Kat with a little note saying thank you and reminding me to take a break over the long weekend and I do hope that all of our families and all of you take a break over this weekend as well.

Of course, it's timely that we not only rest, but now with some changes in social restrictions that we don't become complacent. It's lovely that we have an opportunity to visit regional areas and those of us with family outside the Sydney basin will be able to, perhaps even see families we haven't seen for a while. Perhaps you're planning to head into some of our regional communities and I know that means a lot to our boarding families and communities who've been struck by various economic impacts over the last few months and years and so I wish you safe travels if you are heading out of Sydney.

It's also quite timely, as I say, with some social regulations and restrictions easing in relation to the COVID virus that we don't become complacent and that we become forever vigilant of what are now, new social norms, in our social contact with one another. We need to remember the physical distancing requirements and what we can all do in terms of our own personal hygiene and health to ensure that we can keep each other safe, and that's particularly important after a long weekend and as we return to school next week and interact with one another.

The prayer that I'd like to share with you, as I conclude my message, is taken with inspiration from Mary Ward's ongoing and enduring message that we should always act out of love and not fear. The scenes of violence to come out of the US, in the last nine to 10 days, have been quite frightening and aside of those scenes, with isolation, there's always so much that can cause us to be afraid, to be confused. At the moment there is a lot of exhaustion, and it's quite timely, I think, too, for us all to step back and to appreciate that we have great power in our relationships with one another, to be a life giving source for one another, rather than a life destroying source. So this week's prayer is that of love and not fear. I invite you to enter into the presence of our loving God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*There are only two feelings.*

*Love, and fear.*

*There are only two languages.*

*Love and fear.*

*There are only two activities.*



*Love and fear.*

*There are only two motives, two procedures, two frameworks two results.*

*Love and fear.*

We call on our Creator God on this World Environment Day as we head into a long weekend to wrap his warm and loving embrace around us so that we may always act out of love and not fear.

Have a restful and lovely break everybody and look forward to being with you again soon.

Thank you.

*Ms Marina Ugonotti*

*Principal*