

From the President,

Dear CIS students,

By now, you may have settled in your new study routine and mode, and I hope you will continue to enjoy your studies even without the experience of being together in an actual classroom.

Considering the ongoing precarious situation caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus, ***semester one will be completed online.*** Your lecturers will keep in contact with you. In addition, by the end of the Easter vacation, Dr Rohan Curnow and Mr Jason Israel will provide you with further information.

Despite all the unforeseen changes, let us continue to work together to make this semester a fruitful and enriching experience for all.

Next week will be Holy Week, when we enter more profoundly into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, re-enacting his passion and death culminating in the celebration of his resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Given the impact of COVID-19 on our country and the entire world, Holy Week and Easter will certainly be different from previous experiences. It also calls to mind the word of Pope Francis that the current crisis reminds us “once and for all, that humanity is a single community ... it will teach us that universal kinship is important and critical ... It will no longer be ‘them’. It will be ‘us’. Because we can only come out of this situation together...we will need to build true kinship amongst us.” (Pope Francis, Interview with *La Stampa*, 20 March 2020)

Thus, during this Easter season, this worldwide crisis invites us to pray more intensely for each other and for all who in various ways are affected by the coronavirus – mindful of what Pope Francis said in his 2018 Easter message:

“Jesus had foretold his death and resurrection using the image of the *grain of wheat*. He said: ‘Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit’ (*Jn 12:24*). And this is precisely what happened: Jesus, the grain of wheat sowed by God in the furrows of the earth, died, killed by the sin of the world. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God’s love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord. We Christians believe and know that Christ’s resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint. It is the power of the grain of wheat, the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very end, and thus truly renews the world. This power continues to bear fruit today in the furrows of our history....” (Pope Francis, *Urbi et orbi message*, Easter 2018)

In the spirit of this message, I wish us all –staff and students– a prayerful Holy Week and a blessed and joyful Easter,

Sr M Isabell Naumann



From the Registrar and Academic Dean,

Dear Students,

As Sr Isabell has announced, CIS will not be returning to face-to-face teaching on 20 April, 2020. The rest of Semester 1 will be completed online. We thank you for your cooperation so far, we ask that you continue working with your lecturers as we make necessary adjustments to assessment and plans for teaching out the semester. Please note, campus will remain closed to coursework students until at least Semester 2.

Please, also, ensure you are logging in to CIS Online-Moodle. It is part of how we track 'attendance' and participation (we can tell if you are not doing so).

Regarding assessment submission, rather than our usual practise of hard copy assignments, your lecturers will communicate options for you to either email your assignments directly to them or to upload them into your CIS Online course.

Library arrangements currently in place will continue for the rest of semester (unless Government requirements demand that we alter them).

Semester 2 is looking very likely to be taught fully online. We will follow all advice from the Government, which can, and does, change. If we teach online in semester 2, this may mean significant changes to the current draft timetable. We plan to notify you of changes before week 13 (9th June), our usual registration week. For this reason and others, we ask that you regularly check the Student communications page and read weekly The Institute News which can be found here: <https://cis.edu.au/course/view.php?id=166>. As we update the semester 2 timetable, it will be uploaded to the CIS website. Please make sure you are dealing with the most recent version.

Given the unplanned additional workload currently experienced by the Registry, we wish to inform you that student requests to the Registry may take longer than usual and non-urgent tasks may have to be deferred to a later point. The Registry thanks you for your patience during turbulent time.

Jason Israel and Rohan Curnow

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