

Dear Fr Richard and parishioners of St Catherine of Siena Parish in Caroline Springs,

We are students from the Youth Mission Team at James Sheahan Catholic High School and we are part of the Catholic Parish of St Mary and St Joseph in Orange NSW, which is about four hours west of Sydney. We have been partnered with your parish and Catholic Regional College during this unprecedented time and tough restrictions.

We wanted to let you know that our school community is thinking of you and praying for you at this most challenging time. Prayer is an important part of our faith life, and we begin every morning and each meeting with prayer; we believe in the hope-giving power of prayer and recognise it as a way that we can be in solidarity with you.

We recognise that many of you are probably feeling lonely and isolated, or trapped in your own homes and this is really difficult; but we want you to know that you are not alone. You might be missing significant events like birthdays and anniversaries, even graduations for those at school, but please know that we appreciate everything you are doing to slow the spread of this virus and that these restrictions are for the common good.

We have found ourselves becoming quite innovative in how we connect, especially using the technologies available to us, and we had a lot of Zoom Meetings during our period of remote learning earlier this year. Not being able to attend Mass in person was challenging, but some of us attended live-streamed Masses together/virtually and that was a special way of coming together to worship!

Keep up your resilience and positive attitude, as we know you have been. After all: 'Staying apart keeps us together'. We will continue to pray for you and invite you to also pray for us, as we all look with hope towards the end of this pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

The students and staff of the James Sheahan Catholic High School community, Orange NSW

