



02 April, 2020

Dear Parents and Christites,

The history of humankind is replete with stories of how our predecessors have battled and survived natural calamities and pandemics. Today however, together, we are facing a truly unprecedented situation. It is as Dickens wrote “it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us”. Charles Dickens was writing ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ then. His opening lines ring true of a tale of the world as it is said now. The coronavirus pandemic is affecting our families, our economy, our communities, and our way of life. During this time, I wanted to reach out and update you on how at CHRIST (Deemed to be University) we are approaching the situation before us.

First and foremost, let me say that our hearts go out to those who have been affected by the virus, either directly or indirectly. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with those who are sick, to whom we extend our heartfelt wishes for a full recovery. And we are truly inspired by the selfless healthcare workers around the world who are in the forefront working tirelessly to care for people in need. At CHRIST, we are concerned about the health and safety of our students, employees, families and communities.

Dear parents, we made sure, after anticipating the troubles ahead, to postpone exams and shut down the University even before the government announcement of a nationwide lockdown. We took the decision to ensure that our students reached the safety of their homes before things got tough and you were saved from the anxiety regarding their wellbeing. I would request you to keep your wards at home till an official intimation is sent with their re-joining date.

My dear Students, I would like to assure you that here at CHRIST we are always mindful of your future prospects of studies as well as career. We do not want you to risk your safety and wellbeing by travelling to the campus unnecessarily. The final year exams for the Bangalore Campuses are scheduled after 15th May 2020 and the examination of the first and the second-year students of Bangalore Campuses are deferred to June 2020. For students of the Pune Lavasa and Delhi NCR Campuses the respective Campus Directors will inform you of the arrangements for classes and examinations. Be assured that nothing with regard to the University procedures will come as a surprise and we will keep you informed in advance through email, Knowledge Pro (KP) ERP and the University website of the dates and time well



in advance. I want you to be stress free and go about with your daily chores. I also want to caution you on fake communications that might reach you claiming to be from CHRIST. You are free to communicate with the University to ensure the veracity of such communication.

Our teaching and non-teaching faculty have been strongly encouraged to work from home. With our highly skilled staff working remotely, the arrangement has been relatively smooth and we continue to deliver the highest levels of performance, availability, and security. I have asked the administrative teams to work through digital channels as much as possible.

The relentless commitment of CHRIST to your success is stronger than ever. Our University was founded on the core values of faith, trust, hope, success, and equality and our values are unwavering and continue to guide everything we do. This particular moment reminds us that we are all connected like never before. We are called upon to be our best selves, with patience, understanding and compassion. The fear of the virus is several strides ahead of the reality. As it continues to march through society, it will raise ugliness in us which even we may not be aware it was within us. It has begun already with our new awareness of self. Even without government instruction, many of us would have already started practicing a form of social distancing. We may now be hyper-aware of our surroundings, of whom we talk to, what we are prepared to touch, and how we feel. May I remind all of us that we are social beings and instead of social distancing we should practice physical distancing. Let us be in physical isolation and come together on social media to lean on others and to be leaned on by others in this hour of need. As Malcolm X once said, "When 'I' is replaced by 'we' even illness becomes wellness. That is the attitude we need today to counter this pandemic.

The Christite family is here for you. We are committed to being your partner in your education and career and persevering together in all the days and years ahead, we shall come out of this to tell the world our own tales of how we survived. Assuring you that CHRIST is always there to support.

Be home, Be safe!

Sincerely,

Dr Fr Abraham Vettiyankal Mani  
Vice Chancellor