

To the children of St Joseph's School, Rangiora, NZ

J.M.J

27 September 1895

May Jesus and Mary be praised!

My very dear children'

Do you think I am forgetting Rangiora and its dear children? Indeed I am not, but I am often away from home, and am always busy. I am very pleased with those amongst you who so kindly wrote letters to me and am very sorry that your letters are not near me so that I could send each one of you, by name, a separate message; but if you write again I hope I shall be able to reply to your letters at once so that I shall not forget the names of those who wrote – as I am sorry to have to confess that I do at present. Were I to wait to hunt up your letters, I might not write at all this mail.

I hope, my dear children that you attend school regularly and that you will be prepared to make a good examination when your time comes. Besides being good and attentive at school as well as regular in your attendance, you should often ask St Joseph, your Patron, to help you. I hope you never miss Holy Mass on Sundays – that is, when you can, at all attend. God loves and blesses children who remember Him and do their duty. I know now that Mary Anderson was one of the good little girls who wrote to me, and I hope she will write again and let me know how her father is, and also if her grandfather is still alive.

Goodbye now, my dear children – pray for me, and believe me to be

Your sincere friend in J.M.J.,  
Mary of the Cross