

Archbishop's Statement 2019

Looking back on 2019, Catholic education continues to enjoy the respect and support of parents, many of whom are not Catholic, who choose to entrust their children to our Catholic schools.

The announcement of the extension to Year 12 of St Aloysius Catholic College in Kingston, MacKillop Catholic College in Mornington and St Virgil's College in Austins Ferry has seen an increase in enrolments in these colleges. This is an endorsement by parents of this strategic development of Catholic education.

The support of parents for our Catholic schools clearly flows from a confidence that the schools provide not only quality education but are concerned for the integral formation of the students in all aspects of their life.

We describe our Catholic schools as being "Christ Centred, Student Focussed". This is an apt descriptor for the mission of our schools. We take our inspiration from the Catholic faith which is centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. We are committed to the flourishing of our students as full human beings. Our focus is on their future and welfare.

At the core of our Catholic faith is our understanding of God's good plan for the human person and one of the central elements of this plan is that we are created as either male or female. An essential part of Catholic education is to help our young people to understand what it is to be male or female.

We recognise that men and women are equal in dignity but different. These differences are complementary. Man and woman have been made for each other, and have a deep longing to be in relationship with the other. This longing is ultimately fulfilled in embracing marriage.

I commend the exemplary work of our schools in assisting the sound human formation of all students. In our schools we have created an environment of trust, calmness and openness to ensure that each student is effectively supported in their path to full Christian and human maturity.

I would like to express my personal gratitude for the dedication and generous commitment to all involved in Catholic education in Tasmania, especially those who directly work with our students in the classroom.

Our schools are dedicated to being Christ centred and student focussed.

Archbishop Julian Porteous