

26 May 2025

Media Release

Catholic Schools Week 2025 marked by Mass and the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards

The *Armidale Catholic Schools* system, comprising 24 schools located across the New England and North West regions of NSW will celebrate *Catholic Schools Week* from the 25- 31 May. This event marks a time to celebrate the achievements of our school communities and acknowledge the people dedicated to providing quality learning and a nurturing environment for every student and staff member across our system of schools.

During Catholic Schools Week (CSW) on Wednesday 28th May, schools will gather in Armidale to celebrate Mass and the *Spirit of Catholic Education Awards*. We have a lot to celebrate this year locally, with the installation of the Armidale Diocese's new Bishop Peter Murphy, as well as celebrating with the world-wide Catholic community on the recent news of new Pope Leo XIV.

This year's theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' speaks to joy, spirit and light. As the late Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it: *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."*

Catholic Schools Week will be launched in Tamworth at McCarthy Catholic College on Monday 26 May, with over 300 staff members from all 4 Tamworth Catholic schools attending before commencing a Spirituality day as part of their professional development.

The *Spirit of Catholic Education Awards* ceremony will be held at St Mary's School Armidale, on Wednesday, 28 May at 1:30pm. The award ceremony will be preceded by the celebration of Mass at 11:00 am in the De la Salle Chapel at O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale, celebrated by Bishop Peter Murphy.

The awards recognise outstanding contributions from those across the Armidale Diocese in the categories of Early Career Teacher, Experienced Teacher, Support Staff, Volunteer, Leadership, Student Catholic Spirit and Staff Catholic Spirit.

Director of Schools, Regina Menz, said *"Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the strong teams we have that work together to help us realise our vision of a Christ-centred, inclusive learning community that supports young people to realise a hope-filled future. The award recipients have modelled the Catholic values and principles that underpin our communities. During this special week, I thank every member of our school and parish community, students, staff, clergy, and our families for the vital role they play in Catholic education in the Armidale Diocese."*

Catholic Schools Week will wrap up with the *Armidale Catholic Schools Primary Gary McSweeney Memorial Cup & Rugby Union Trials* in Tamworth on Friday 30th May.

Armidale Catholic Schools is grateful to their major supporter *UniSuper*. We thank them for their continued support that has enabled significant staff and student representation from the 24 Diocesan schools to attend these celebrations.

Award Winners- Embargoed 2pm Wednesday 28th May

Early Career Teacher- Georgia Mackson (McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth)

Experienced Teacher- Judy Ryan (St Joseph's, West Tamworth)

Support Staff -Karen Fletcher (St Joseph's, Glen Innes)

Volunteer- Lauren Propsting (St Edward's, Tamworth)

Leadership- Frances Reynolds (St Joseph's, Mungindi)

Student Catholic Spirit- Madeleine Cowley (O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale)

Staff Catholic Spirit- Garry Osborne (O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale)

Staff Catholic Spirit- Cate Allen (McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth)

Citations Available for each winner on request

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Catholic Schools Week System Celebrations

Date: Monday 26 May 2025

Event: Launch of CSW & Tamworth Staff Spirituality Day at McCarthy

Time and location: 9am McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth (School Hall)

9.05 am - 10:05 am Mass

10:10 am - 10:45 am Keynote- Regina Menz (Director of Schools)

10.45 am - 11:15 am Break- Morning Tea

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2025

Event: Mass & Awards in Armidale

Time and location:

11:00 am: Mass- De la Salle Chapel (O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale)

1:30 pm: Spirit of Catholic Education Awards Presentation Ceremony (St Annes' Hall- St Mary's Primary
156 Rusden St, Armidale)

Date: Friday 30 May 2025

Event: ACS Primary Gary McSweeney Memorial Cup & Rugby Union Trials Tamworth

Time and location: 8:45am- 2:30pm Pirates Rugby Club Tamworth

Media inquiries:

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Photos available on request.

Award winners names to follow next week- Embargoed until 2pm 28th May 2025

About Armidale Catholic Schools:

Armidale Catholic Schools comprises 24 schools: 19 primary schools, two central K-10 schools, and three secondary schools. We educate around 6,000 students and employ approximately 1,000 staff. Our schools are spread across a wide regional, rural, and remote geographical area in the New England and North West regions of NSW.

Our Schools

O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale
St Mary's College, Gunnedah
St Philomena's School Moree
St Joseph's School Mungindi
St Mary's Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School, Warialda
St Joseph's School Uralla
St Nicholas Primary School, Tamworth
St Joseph's Primary School West Tamworth
St Xavier's Primary School
Sacred Heart Boggabri
McCarthy Catholic College
Holy Trinity School Inverell
St Joseph's Primary School Quirindi
St Joseph's School Walgett
St Joseph's Primary School, Wee Waa
St Francis Xavier's School
St Joseph's Catholic School Barraba
St. Joseph's Primary School Tenterfield
St Joseph's School Glen Innes
St Patrick's Primary School, Walcha
St Mary of the Angels Primary, Guyra
St Michael's Primary School, Manilla
St Edward's Primary Tamworth

