

15 August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of St. Mary's Primary School, Mooroopna,

## **Announcement of New Principal**

It is with great pleasure that I write today to announce that Bishop Shane Mackinlay has approved the appointment of Mrs Elaine Vertriest as the new Principal of St. Mary's Primary School, Mooroopna. Mrs Vertriest will commence her role at the beginning of Term 4, 2024.

Elaine brings to St. Mary's a distinguished career in Catholic education, with 35 years of teaching experience and numerous leadership roles across both primary and secondary settings. She is currently serving as the Deputy Principal of Learning and Teaching at Nagle College, Bairnsdale, a position she has held since 2019. Her extensive experience and deep commitment to education are complemented by her ongoing studies, as she is currently completing a Masters of Evidence-Based Teaching at the University of Melbourne.

Elaine is deeply passionate about fostering an inclusive and collaborative learning environment. She believes that every student should be valued, supported, and empowered to achieve success in a safe and nurturing setting. We were excited and gratified to note that her educational philosophy is closely aligned with the values of St. Mary's, where the holistic growth of students, both academically and in their faith, is central.

In her new role, and building on the excellent work of Anthony Butts and your staff over the past few years, Elaine will focus on ensuring that every student's learning growth is prioritised, with high expectations set for both students and staff. Her data-informed approach and emphasis on evidence-based practices will guide her leadership as she works to maintain and build upon the strong educational standards at St. Mary's. She is particularly inspired by the school's motto, "Let Your Light Shine," which resonates deeply with her vision for education.

Elaine's appointment marks an exciting new chapter for St. Mary's, and we are confident that under her leadership, our school will continue to thrive. We look forward to welcoming her to our community and supporting her as she embarks on this important role.

I congratulate Elaine on this significant appointment and wish her and the St. Mary's community all the very best as she transitions to life at St Mary's. I know you will join me in making her feel most welcome, and keep her and her family in your prayers as they make this exciting transition.

Peace and blessings,



Kate Fogarty  
Executive Director, Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited.