



# St Bede's College



The objective of this year's International Women's Day campaign - **#EmbraceEquity** - is to initiate a global conversation on why creating equity is so much more than simply offering equal opportunity.

**Equity** recognizes that each person has different circumstances, and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed for that person to reach an equal outcome.

**Equity** gives everyone what they need to be successful.

**Equity** acknowledges that people don't begin life in the same place, and that circumstances can make it more difficult for people to achieve the same goals. People start from different places, so true inclusion and belonging require equitable action. For example, a policy that benefits a white woman, may not necessarily provide the same benefit to a woman of colour, due to historical and/or current inequalities.

In reference to International Women's Day, Br Timothy Peter – the Br Visitor for Lasallians in the Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea Region - noted that “true change can only come from equality in participation and voice.” He asks us - are we “mindfully making space for the women in [our] life to shine?”. It is our responsibility – as young people, as sons, as brothers, as men – to raise the voices of women. Not to speak for them, but to ensure they are heard. A voice that calls for equitable access, resources and recognition, so that each and every woman – regardless of her starting point - has what she requires to succeed.

International Women's Day is a celebration of all women have achieved - and we are honoured that you could join us this morning to acknowledge and celebrate this – as well as serving as a reminder of the work we have left to do in this space...the work we have to do to reach a truly equitable world. As Br Timothy Peter observed, International Women's Day is “a time of reflection - a time to consider how far women's rights have come, but also how far we still have to go.”