

2021 COMMENCEMENT MASS

Good Morning and a very warm welcome to each of you to the 2021 College Opening Mass. We offer our warmest welcome to Fr David Ranson and Deacon Aldrin

We welcome Br Sherrin representing the Christian Brothers who founded this great school. Welcome to all our parents and friends joining us online through the live stream and welcome of course to all students and staff.

I love our school and I love it most when we join together a community and even more when we pray together and join together in our faith.

It is a joy to see our new students in Year 5, 6 and 7. Welcome our new students and to all our students and staff.

Fr David we especially welcome you on your first visit to St Pius X College and we embrace you whole heartedly as our Parish Priest and faith leader. We are a very active part of Our Lady of Dolours Parish and of the Diocese of Broken Bay. You are always welcome in our school.

Fr David has a vital interest in the our school and in the youth ministry of young people today.

As we begin our school year in prayer offering our works to God, we gather exactly as the College has done every year for 84 years and with our Parish Priest leading us in Mass.

In this Mass today we commit our work – yours and mine – students and staff, parents and friends - to do our very best in study, sport, performing arts, cultural activities - in our friendships and family. We have all set goals for this year and we would only offer God the best we can do.

Our school motto – Fide et Labore - Faith and Hard Work expresses who we are and we stand for respect, justice, opportunity and excellence.

So what are our actions then coming from these values?

We foster respect for all, acceptance of difference, social justice and an awareness of injustice and we speak up, indigenous reconciliation, we do not accept intolerance and pride but instead we promote inclusion, understanding, humility, acceptance of sexuality, gender equity, respect and we value learning.

We are no better than anyone else but we do strive to build a better world and make a positive difference. Let our actions, yours and mine, exemplify our faith, values and beliefs.

Our theme for 2021 is “Better Together” and we include each other, look after each other and “Motivate your mate”

I encourage every student and every teacher to set a goal this year to give in service and support of one another in faith, learning, wellbeing and in the hard times and the best of days. Listen hard today to the scripture readings and I really look forward to Fr David’s Homily. Keep thinking about and praying for our year together. We ask God to bless each of us, our school and all that we do and we give thanks today.

We welcome in reflective silence with the musical background, our entrance procession. Please stand.