

10 April 2018

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Possible Future Development of the North Sydney Parish Educational Precinct

To Parishioners of our Lady of the Way Parish North Sydney, Parish Priests, Parents and Staff of St Mary's Catholic Primary School North Sydney, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Mosman, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School Clifton Gardens, St Michael's Catholic Primary School Lane Cove and Marist College North Shore.

In September 2017, I wrote to you to formally announce a partnership between St Mary's Parish North Sydney and Sydney Catholic Schools, to look closely at establishing a Pre-K to 12 educational precinct within the Parish of Our Lady of the Way, North Sydney.

Since that time, a feasibility study has been completed which included an investigation of suitable curriculum models and the mapping of school infrastructure, in anticipation of projected future enrolment growth. In February 2018, you received a "Report on the Community Consultations" held in October 2017.

Following that, the Steering Committee developed a report which included a set of findings and recommendations for the future development of the educational precinct. This report was tabled and approved by the Sydney Catholic Schools Leadership Team, and Sydney Catholic Schools Board.

I have now requested the Steering Committee continue its work in taking forward the following directions:

1. To move to a master planning phase for the North Sydney Catholic Precinct so that it will meet the future needs of Our Lady of the Way Parish and the projected enrolment growth of the schools (Pre-K to 12).
2. Marist College North Shore will be developed as a co-educational 7-12 Secondary College, to provide a more affordable option for boys and girls, with the girls commencing Year 7 in 2021. The expansion of the primary school at North Sydney to a three-stream school will occur over the next 10 years.
3. A capital development master plan be developed for the North Sydney school site that demonstrates a response to the forecasted growth in population and the provision of co-education for the area.

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4. An educational model will be implemented;
 - a) to further enhance the Catholic Identity and Mission within the precinct.
 - b) to provide a continuum of learning from Early Childhood through to Kindergarten and Year 12 on the North Sydney site.
 - c) to ensure an alignment of the curriculum pathway across the network of feeder primary schools and the secondary college.
5. Implementation of a leadership model and structures for the precinct and network of North Sydney schools, that brings together the educational vision, community and capital improvement for the North Sydney area.
6. To develop the business case for complementary partnerships on the site. Such partnerships may include but not be limited to a range of Catholic agencies and services.

The Steering Committee will now continue to engage with the Parish and schools to develop the holistic vision for the North Sydney Catholic precinct and plan for its implementation.

During the latter part of Term 2, the Steering Committee plans to hold a series of community symposia with the following objectives:

- To provide answers to key questions raised by the community during the previous consultation.
- To provide information on key decisions to date and major aspects of the emerging vision, including transition to co-education 7 – 12 in 2021.
- To seek further input from the community to inform the work of the Steering Committee as it moves into implementation planning.

Finally, I thank Father Andy Bullen SJ, Ms Beverly Coffey and Mr Tony Duncan for their leadership and unwavering support for the future development of Catholic education. I also acknowledge the support of Father Phil Linder, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Mosman and Blessed Sacrament, Clifton Gardens and Father Geoff Plant, Parish Priest of St Michael's Lane Cove and Marist Schools, Australia.

Yours sincerely



Dr Dan White
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS