



*Remain in my love*

*Jn 15:9*

18 March 2022

To: Parish Priests, Administrators, Priest Directors, Parish Leaders, Diocesan Agencies and Ministries

**St Francis Catholic College  
New Catholic College for the Toowoomba Diocese**

I am pleased to announce that planning for a new Catholic College for the Toowoomba Diocese has begun. Whilst in its early stages, the proposed co-educational College, located on the corner of Shoesmith Road and Boundary Road South, Westbrook, will be master planned to enrol up to 1500 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The new College is in response to the growing demand for Catholic education in Toowoomba, particularly in the Western growth corridor. The last new Catholic school opened in the Diocese was Mary MacKillop Catholic College, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year.

The name for the new College is St Francis Catholic College. Our current Pope choose the name Francis in the tradition of St Francis of Assisi which inspired the choice of Francis as a fitting name for the new College. Franciscan spirituality speaks to us more than ever at this time – our young people need models of people simply living the Gospel life – St Francis of Assisi (and St Clare) encourage us to see and experience God's loving and peaceful presence in the world. The unique Franciscan ethos of simplicity, humility, peace and joy will be woven into the life of the College and become the touchstones which guide and inform the growth and formation of students.

This is an exciting development for Catholic education in the Diocese and I look forward to this new College continuing the provision of high quality, affordable Catholic education by our systemic Toowoomba Catholic Schools.

Yours sincerely

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin, DD, MCL, JCL  
Bishop of Toowoomba