



Media Release

Tuesday 11 February 2025

Mary Help of Christians Catholic College Officially Opens Its Doors

Despite challenging weather conditions, the excitement and joy of coming together on-site for the first time have made the official opening of Mary Help of Christians Catholic College in Shaw a truly momentous occasion. Townsville Catholic Education proudly welcomed students and staff to this brand-new college, marking a significant milestone for Catholic education in the region.

As the first Catholic co-educational secondary college in Townsville, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College is set to meet the growing demand for quality Catholic education across Shaw, Bohle, Mount Louisa, Burdell, Mount Low, and Kirwan. Located on Dalrymple Road, adjacent to St Benedict's Catholic School, the new college will play a vital role in catering to the educational needs of these rapidly expanding communities.

Foundation Principal Mardi Grubba expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "It has been incredible to finally welcome our students to their new school. Despite the tough weather, the sense of community and excitement on-site has been truly inspiring. We are committed to providing a nurturing and high-quality Catholic education, and this marks just the beginning of an exciting journey."

Due to heavy seasonal rain, the college activated a contingency plan to ensure a smooth start to the school year. Students commenced their first two weeks at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Kirwan and Good Shepherd Catholic School in Rasmussen, while final preparations continued on-site. With dedicated efforts from staff and construction teams, the college successfully opened A and B Blocks for students from Tuesday 11 February, allowing them to experience their new learning environment.

The establishment of Mary Help of Christians Catholic College comes in response to the increasing demand for Catholic secondary education in the North and West regions. With enrolment numbers surpassing expectations, the overwhelming community support reflects strong confidence in the college's vision and values.

To celebrate this special occasion, students and staff gathered to share in a beautifully decorated cake, symbolising the unity and excitement of the college's opening. This event provided a joyful opportunity for the school community to come together, marking the beginning of a promising journey ahead.

Meticulously planned over several years, the college officially began construction in early 2024. Starting with an initial cohort of 125 Year 7 students, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College has ambitious plans to expand to a full capacity of 1,000 students in the coming years.

The successful opening of the college, despite the weather challenges, is a testament to the dedication and resilience of students, staff, and the wider community. As the college embarks on this exciting new chapter, it remains committed to its motto 'Called to Learning, Service and Compassion'. With a strong foundation in faith and education, the college will stand as a beacon of academic excellence, faith, and opportunity for generations to come.



M





END

Marketing contact:

Karolien Kern, Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Townsville Catholic Education
P: 0417 227 049 | E: kkern@tsv.catholic.edu.au / marketing@tsv.catholic.edu.au