



## **Good Samaritan Sister recognised for outstanding contribution**

**SYDNEY, Tuesday October 18:** Good Samaritan Sister Catherine Slattery has been awarded the 2022 Brother Kelvin Canavan Catholic School Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Catholic education.

Sr Catherine worked for over 25 years in schools across NSW and Queensland as teacher and administrator, and is well-remembered as the principal of Ryan Catholic College in Townsville, St John the Evangelist Catholic High School in Nowra and St Patricks College in Campbelltown.

The Brother Kelvin Catholic School Leadership Award was established in 2019 to honour the significant contribution of Br Kelvin to Catholic education. It recognises leadership through example, personal faith and discipleship, commitment to growth-oriented support of others, and focus on the benefit of Catholic schools in NSW.

Sr Catherine received the award “for her prophetic leadership across all these domains, her extensive contribution to Catholic education, and, in particular, her work to sustain and promote the charism of Good Samaritan Education,” according to the official citation.

In accepting the award, Sr Catherine recognised “the many mentors, guides and fellow pilgrims along the way of Catholic education who invited me to share this privileged journey”.

“Catholic Education is enriched by the charisms of many religious orders, much like the facets of a diamond, each reflecting a different aspect of the divine,” she said.

“Each of these religious congregations has a valuable legacy and much to offer the nation through Catholic education.”

Sr Catherine began shaping the formation programs within Good Samaritan Education in 2002, nurturing its evolution with the support of the Good Samaritan Education Council. She became its Chair from 2006 until 2012.

In 2011 the sisters, under the leadership of Sister Clare Condon, established Good Samaritan Education (GSE) and Sr Catherine became Deputy Chair from 2011-2021. With the Mission Team, she developed programs to offer professional learning and deep formation in the tradition for governance personnel across GSE, and leaders, middle managers, staff and students of GSE schools. She is still a member of the Good Samaritan Education Assembly

Her contribution to Catholic Education has also extended to the broader Catholic education community, as a member of the National Catholic Education Commission - from 2013 to 2021 and Catholic Religious Australia's Education Committee – from 2013 to 2020. She also helped establish, and was a founding member of, the Federation of Religious Institutes and Ministerial Public Juridic Persons NSW/ACT and the Committee of Religious Institute and Ministerial Public Juridic Person School Authorities Australia (CORMSAA).

“Catholic education, rooted in the Gospel, only makes sense as a communal enterprise,” she said.

“At its best, Catholic education is an expression of Jesus’ invitation to “Come and see,” calling us to leave the known and familiar and to step out into the uncharted territory of new learnings and previously unrecognised challenges and relationships. As I hear it with my Benedictine ears, the Gospel invitation is extended to us together, not merely as individuals.”

The 2022 presentation was made to Sr Catherine at the Catholic Schools NSW Law Symposium in Sydney on Thursday September 29.

**For more information read The Good Oil story [here](#).**

**To speak with Sr Catherine contact Linda Apps on 0433 999 017 or [linda@commsforchange.com.au](mailto:linda@commsforchange.com.au).**

**Credit for Sr Catherine Slattery's photo:**

*Image: Sisters of the Good Samaritan*

**Credit for the award image:**

*Giovanni Portelli/Catholic Schools NSW.*