

BCE Media Release – Praying for collaboration, BCE Principal creates Co-created Prayer resources for schools

This International Women's Day (March 8) Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) would like to shine a light on the great work of one of its Principals - Catherine Connors.

The Brisbane Catholic Education leader has not only been starring in her first Principalship at St Finbarr's School Ashgrove since January 2023, but is praised for developing a unique set of prayer resources to help engage students in religious life at school.

In fact, the 'Co-created prayer resources' are so innovative Catherine was invited to present them to 1500 educators from around the country at the 2022 National Catholic Education Commission conference, Melbourne.

Catherine says she piloted the Co-created Prayer resources on the Year 1 to 6 students at St Matthew Primary School Cornubia, over a four-year period, and saw student engagement soar.

"When students were given the opportunity to take ownership of their role in prayer, their interest and engagement grew," she said.

"Since then, the resources were refined before being trialled at school and Parish Mass by St Matthew's Catholic Parish Loganholme with the support of local Parish Priests as well as other BCE schools to engage Catholic primary aged students in religious school life.

"They allow students to collaboratively plan prayer experiences through adaptive, inquiry-based learning, that connects with curriculum, and promotes student agency.

"Since then, I have refined the resources and had other BCE students and staff trial the model at school mass.

"Co-created Prayer is designed to animate the religious life within a school.

"The model invites students to join one of five groups, Sacred Space, Sacred Word, Sacred Understanding, Sacred Prayer, and Sacred Music.

"The students then use these themes to create and lead prayer together.

"We've found through inquiry-based learning, student voice and agency is enhanced.

“Co-created Prayer creates students who are both conscious in what they are doing, but also students who are active learners.

“Not only this but we have found the students become better collaborators and team players.”

Catherine added she has already started introducing her resources to her new school community.

“My students have already had the opportunity to use the resources and create their own prayers,” she says.

“It’s amazing to see the prayer model I created work so well across so many different Catholic schools and regions.”

BCE would like to wish Catherine all the very best as she continues her Co-created Prayer journey.

To find out more about Catherine’s Co-created Prayer resources [click here](#).

To find out more about St Finbarr’s School Ashgrove and to enrol [click here](#).

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