

TOWNSVILLE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUST CORPORATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOWNSVILLE

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Media Release

20 October 2023

Co-Educational Catholic College to open in 2025

Townsville Catholic Education is excited to announce the opening of a new Catholic secondary school in Shaw, expected to welcome Year 7 students in 2025. Mary Help of Christians Catholic College will be Townsville's first Catholic co-educational secondary college.

Located on Dalrymple Road adjacent to St Benedict's Catholic School, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College aims to alleviate the demand for Catholic secondary school enrolments places in Townsville, which has seen significant growth over the past decade.

Townsville Catholic Education's Executive Director, Jacqui Francis said the rapid population growth, particularly in the North and West regions, along with an increasing preference for Catholic education, has placed significant pressure on co-educational secondary colleges in the area.

"Catholic Education in Townsville has witnessed a significant increase in enrolments over the past 10 years. The 2021 Australian Census data showed that Catholic education market share increased in Townsville by 4.83% for primary enrolments and 5.48% for secondary enrolments."

"We are excited by the opening of Mary Help of Christians Catholic College, which will cater to the city's growth areas of Shaw, Bohle, Mount Louisa, Burdell, Mount Low and Kirwan and add to our Catholic school offering in the region."

Mary Help of Christians Catholic College has been in planning for several years with the land purchased in 2021. The college will offer co-educational secondary education, a first for the Townsville region.

"We currently have 11 Catholic schools within Townsville, including 7 primary schools, 3 Prep to Year 12 colleges and one all girls secondary college, St Marget Mary's College. Our Townsville Catholic school communities, particularly the primary schools, have provided feedback that they are wanting a co-educational secondary school option that is not part of a P-12 setting and so we are excited to provide this option for our community."

The selection of the school's name, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College, has been endorsed by Bishop Timothy Harris who said, "Mary Help of Christians is not only the Patroness of Australia, but she is also the Patron Saint of the Townsville Diocese, embodying the Catholic belief in Mary as an intercessor, who prays with and for us to God."

Townsville Catholic Education will embark on an extensive recruitment process to fill the role of foundation principal, as well as other staff appointments. The goal is to have a principal in place by January 2024, ensuring a seamless start for students in 2025.

"Mary Help of Christians Catholic College is poised to become a beacon of academic excellence and spiritual growth for students. We look forward to the positive impact this new college will have on the community and its commitment to providing a high-quality Catholic education." Jacqui said.

For more information, or to express an interest in enrolment at Mary Help of Christians Catholic College, Shaw, please visit tsv.catholic.edu.au/schools/mary-help-of-christians-catholic-college.

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CONTACT

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About Townsville Catholic Education

Townsville Catholic Education provides quality education in a faith-filled, Christ-centred environment. With 29, soon to be 30 schools across the Townsville Diocese, TCE strives to nurture the spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional development of each student, inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Additional information

The first stages of Mary Help of Christians Catholic College will be constructed in 2024 with the college opening at the commencement of the 2025 school year.

The college will cater for 120 Year 7 students in 2025 and will grow each year with the first cohort to graduate in 2030.

The college is master planned to accommodate six-stream year levels and will eventually provide education to 1,000 students.