



## Media Release

Thursday 7 March 2024

### **TURNING OF THE SOD AND BLESSING CEREMONY AT TOWNSVILLE'S NEWEST SCHOOL**

The Townsville Catholic community is abuzz with excitement as preparations are underway for Mary Help of Christians Catholic College, Shaw – the newest addition to the Townsville Diocese.

Tomorrow, Friday 8 March, a significant milestone will be reached with the Turning of the Sod and Blessing Ceremony at the new college in Shaw. The event will include an introduction from Foundation Principal, Mardi Grubba, an official welcome by Townsville Catholic Education's Executive Director, Jacqui Francis and a Blessing by Bishop Tim Harris.

Locally based builders, Phoenix Constructions, has been awarded the tender and will work alongside Tony Madden Architects in bringing this multi-million-dollar project to life with construction due for completion in December 2024, with the official opening at the commencement of the 2025 school year.

Stage one will feature three buildings including a multi-purpose Hall and double story Administration and Library blocks featuring state of the art classrooms such as a tiered-seating lecture theatre able to accommodate 180 people.

"This Blessing marks a very important milestone in our journey, said Mardi Grubba, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College Principal.

"Our new schools will provide students with a challenging and well-rounded curriculum that will prepare them for success in the future."

"Our mission is to foster a holistically balanced education, where students can thrive and be called upon to discover their purpose in life. We believe that a strong spiritual foundation will guide our students to become compassionate, moral and contributing citizens."

As the demand for Catholic secondary education in Townsville continues to grow, Mary Help of Christians Catholic College aims to alleviate this pressure and cater to the increasing preference for Catholic education in our city.

Enrolments opened in February 2024 and applications are coming in increasing numbers with the first round of offers being made in late March. Mary Help of Christians Catholic College, Mardi Grubba will commence the interview process over the next few weeks."

"We have had a lot of interest in enrolment at Mary's," said Grubba.

“We are hoping for approximately 120 students in our first year, with plans to eventually accommodate six-stream year levels and provide education to 1,000 students.”

We invite you to join us for the Turning of the Sod and Blessing ceremony, marking the commencement of this significant endeavour.

**Details:**

Date: Friday 8 March

Time: 9.00am for a 9.30am start

Location: opposite St Benedict’s Catholic School - 890 Dalrymple Road, Shaw



**END**

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