



Media Release

Friday 24 January 2025

Mary Help of Christians Catholic College Official Opening

Townsville Catholic Education is thrilled to announce the official opening of the Mary Help of Christians Catholic College in Shaw. As Townsville's first Catholic co-educational secondary college, this new institution represents a significant milestone in addressing the growing demand for Catholic secondary education in the region.

Located on Dalrymple Road, adjacent to St Benedict's Catholic School, the college aims to cater to the educational needs of the rapidly expanding communities in Shaw, Bohle, Mount Louisa, Burdell, Mount Low, and Kirwan.

Foundation Principal, Mardi Grubba, expressed her excitement about the opening, stating, "Mary Help of Christians Catholic College is poised to become a beacon of academic excellence and spiritual growth for our students. Despite recent weather challenges, our commitment to providing a high-quality Catholic education remains unwavering."

Due to recent seasonal rain, the college has put its contingency plan into action. The initial days of the school year, from Wednesday 29 January to Friday 31 January, will take place off-site at the Mary MacKillop Centre on Morindo Drive in Kirwan. During this time, critical work will continue on site to allow for the use of A and B Blocks by the start of Week 2, being Monday 3 February. This temporary measure ensures that the school's final preparations can be completed without disruption to students' learning.

The rapid population growth and increasing preference for Catholic education in the North and West regions have placed significant pressure on existing secondary colleges. The opening of Mary Help of Christians Catholic College will greatly alleviate this demand and enhance our educational offerings.

Enrolment numbers have exceeded expectations, with the community rallying in support of the new college. This enthusiastic response underscores the community's confidence in the quality of education the college will provide.

Mary Help of Christians Catholic College has been meticulously planned over several years, with construction beginning in early 2024. The college will initially accommodate 126 Year 7 students and plans to expand to a full capacity of 1,000 students in the coming years.

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