

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2020

## Ross Fox, Director of Catholic Education

As the end of the school year fast approaches and we journey through Advent, waiting for the birth of the Christ child, we reflect back on what can only be described as a challenging and defining year for us all.

2020 has tested us in so many ways, with bushfires, floods, hailstorms and a global pandemic that has changed the way we live and work.

I have been inspired and moved by the way in which the entire Catholic Education community across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn has come together to support one another through this difficult time. What I have witnessed across our school communities is truly heroic.

Unforeseen changes to the way we were called on to operate, moving to remote learning and then back to classroom learning, demanded flexibility, adaptability and creativity. Our educators did not falter. Supporting students and their families through an online environment to not only continue excellence in learning but to maintain a sense of community and connection.

I would like to recognise the parents and carers who collaborated with teachers to support their children's education at home. Together we celebrate the achievements of our students this year, and, in particular, I would like to acknowledge those of our Kindergarten and Year 12 students who have completed a year that will be very significant in their schooling.

Through the lockdown period brought on by COVID-19 our schools remained open to all families who needed them to continue to provide individual, specialised care for all students.

Our Faith and Tradition provided strength and solace and we were united in our purpose and mission to provide quality education and care for our students. We continue to find Jesus in our lives in this way.

I have never been prouder to lead a group of outstanding professionals who have given their all to serve our students and their families. Our Principals demonstrated true leadership, working so tirelessly to ensure that their school communities continued to thrive through these unprecedented times.

I want to thank you all for your commitment and dedication to Catholic education. You are truly a blessing for the children in our care.

I believe the new year may continue to test us, but I am confident that we can rise to any challenge. I look forward to new opportunities for growth and learning as we continue to provide the highest standards of faith filled education for every student in our care next year. We will continue to innovate and continuously improve our systems and processes, implementing programs such as Catalyst to inspire excellence.

As we wait for the birth of the Christ child, may your families and loved ones experience the peace and joy that comes at this Holy time of year. I wish you all a hope filled Christmas. Stay safe and enjoy a well-earned rest.

God's blessing to you all.