



Speaking the truth in love

Eph 4:15

12 June 2014

My Dear People

On 27 April this year I was fortunate to be in Rome as the Church celebrated the Canonisation of two great popes of recent times, St John XXIII and St John Paul II.

The Blessed John XXIII Parish community of Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens has commemorated this occasion by dedicating their Parish and learning community to St John XXIII.

The Diocese of Parramatta has an especially strong connection to St John Paul II. It was he who founded our diocese, when in 1986 he determined to excise it from the Archdiocese of Sydney and make it a new diocese in its own right. A few months later he visited the brand new Diocese of Parramatta as part of his papal tour of Australia. Some of you will remember his visit to the Transfield factory.

St John Paul II made a very significant contribution to Catholic education. A sign of the priority he gave it was that one of his first publications as pope was *Catechesi Tradendae* (1979), his apostolic exhortation on catechesis in our time. It was during his time as Pope and under his authority that the Congregation for Catholic Education published its documents on *Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith* (1982), *Educational Guidance in Human Love* (1983), *The Religious Dimension of the Catholic School* (1988), *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* (1997) and *Consecrated Religious in Catholic Schools* (2002). He also published encyclicals on faith and reason, morality, social justice and fundamental Catholic beliefs, and gave us the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which has so enriched our teaching.

He will also be long remembered as a great friend of young people and the father of World Youth Day.

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Now that Pope John Paul II has been canonised I have decided to commemorate his significant contributions to our diocese and to Catholic education by renaming Terra Sancta College in his honour.

The charism of St John Paul is already present in the College's history and charism. The name 'Terra Sancta' means 'holy ground' and the school's motto "The Way passes through this land" comes from John Paul's own words during his visit to Australia in 1986:

Look, dear people of Australia, and behold this vast continent of yours! It is your home! The place of your joys and pains, your endeavours and your hopes! And for all of you, Australians, the way to the Father's house passes through this land. Jesus Christ is this Way!

From the commencement of Term 3 the new name of the College will be **St John Paul II Catholic College, Nirimba and Schofields**.

The existing John Paul II campus at St Andrew's College, Marayong, will be renamed St Andrew's College Senior Campus in order to avoid any confusion between the schools.

I appreciate that some of you are very attached to the history and identity of Terra Sancta or may have concerns over the practical changes required. The Catholic Education Office will support the College community through the transition so families are not burdened with additional expenses.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen the Catholic identity of the College and align the mission and charism of the College to the life and work of this great Pope and Saint.

I look forward to celebrating this happy development with you in person in due course.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Anthony Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

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