



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

26 July 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It is now some eight months since the new Governance arrangements came into being for Catholic Parish Primary Schools and Catholic Regional Secondary Colleges within the Archdiocese. And it is now three months since I was appointed by Archbishop Peter to the new role within the Archdiocese of Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools.

These past eight months have presented both opportunities and challenges, in particular to principals and parish priests, as we all transition to the new arrangements. As this difficult and challenging 'year of lockdowns' continues we are all learning a great deal what it means to be a part of a new structure in a vital aspect of the mission of the Church of Melbourne namely the education and formation of young people.

My letter of appointment as Episcopal Vicar contained a number of areas of responsibility including working with parish priests and principals to enhance their working relationship. As the Statement of Mission states:

“The modelling of positive and collaborative relationships among key personnel, particularly the parish priest, canonical administrator and principal, is fundamental to the success of a school’s fidelity to mission, as their leadership roles are critical in forming a school community which responds to the challenge of living the gospel in their daily lives.”

In addition my letter of appointment states that I am to “support the establishment and professional development and growth of School Advisory Councils.”

I am aware that much positive work has been done and continues to be in the above two areas and many more too. I am heartened that members of the MACS School Advisory Council Secretariat have been working with many of you to facilitate either the establishment or transition of School Advisory Councils in our schools.

To this end I would like the opportunity to meet with principals and parish priests in each of the four regions of the Archdiocese so that I might listen to the story of the journey so far and also be a part of the conversation around areas of support that I can provide and/or facilitate. Shortly, in conjunction with the MACS Office, I will be in contact to arrange a suitable venue and time for these meetings, hopefully toward the end of the current school term or early in the next.

I look forward to meeting with you, listening to you and supporting each of you in this life giving ministry in which we all share.

With every best wish and blessing

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Reynolds".

Fr. Mark Reynolds