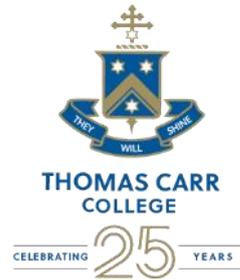


Volume 25 Issue 19: 26 November 2021

## From the Principal

Mr Holmes



### “They Will Shine”

It is important to **finish the academic year strong**, just like we started the year! Whilst our reserves may be running low it is vital to remain focused and finish the year well. Our credibility in the eyes of others is based on results. Not just academic results but our ability to complete our projects, meet deadlines and follow tasks through to completion, and live the Catholic values of the College.

Our VCE examinations were conducted in a calm and supporting environment largely due to the professionalism of our Head of Learning and Teaching Ms Geraldine McIntyre. The staff at Student Reception ensured all communications and regulations from VCAA were carried out with a minimum of fuss. Our Year 10 and 11 students have likewise undertaken their examinations, which provided both a challenge and a good indicator of their effort and skill as they meet the challenges of their senior years of schooling.

We will be holding a Commissioning ceremony for the Year 11 and 12, 2021 students during the Headstart Program. This Commissioning is symbolic and meaningful as we impress upon these senior students that they have in fact commenced their journey into the important final years of their schooling. In practical terms, this requires them to commence their study for 2022 from the start of the Headstart Program.

Elizabeth Hall

Liam Morgan



I congratulate our student recipients of the 2021 SACSSS, John Landy Sportsperson Awards – Liam Morgan and Elizabeth Hall. Well done for this prestigious recognition.

Staffing for 2022 is coming together very well as we shape a professional and energetic team of new staff to join us next year. Details of staff departures and new staff joining us will appear in our final Newsletter in early December.

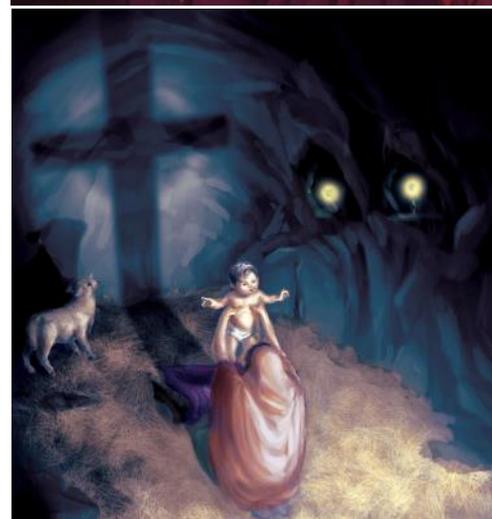
Our students and families will receive a copy of our special edition 25th Anniversary 2021 Yearbook. I thank Ms Trish

Padoin for compiling this wonderful recollection of all the moments that made this year memorable in a positive way.

I thank our students, families and staff, for your efforts to bring 2021 to a meaningful and focused conclusion in this the last term of the academic year, our Advent Term.

## COMING EVENTS

Monday 29 November	Year 8 to 12 Orientation Day
Monday 29 November - Thursday 2 December	Year 8 Shine '21
Monday 29 November - Friday 3 December	Headstart Program
Tuesday 30 November	Commissioning Ceremony - Year 11 & 12's of 2022
Thursday 2 December	A Night to Shine, 7pm - Fr Tobin Gymnasium
Friday 3 December	Last day of Term 4



## Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
In this time of Advent,  
Help us to hear your voice.  
Touch us once again.  
Give us the courage to be your beloved.  
Give us courage to choose joy.  
We need you now this Christmas.  
Be born in us again. Today.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come,  
Amen

## College Theme for 2021

**“We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul firm and secure”**

*Hebrews 6:19*

## College Vision

Thomas Carr College is a dynamic Catholic learning community, guided by the Gospel. Excellence and opportunities to develop are pursued. Through our hope and service to others we shine our light into the world.

## From the Deputy Principal of Organisation and Wellbeing

Ms Angelico

We have come to the end of the 2021 academic year and now look forward to the *Headstart* program, A Night to Shine and the final College Mass next Friday 3 December.

I trust that despite the challenges faced, our staff and students feel a sense of satisfaction with all that they have been able to achieve this year. There is much for which we can be grateful and much has been achieved in 2021. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the College Yearbook 2021, is a beautiful publication. It is a testament to the dynamic and creative learning community here at Thomas Carr College and it captures the essence of all that is on offer for our students. I am sure you will enjoy reading through the Yearbook when your child brings it home next week.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Yearbook and throughout the year. Special thanks to Trish Padoin for all her work in showcasing the work and the achievements of our students and staff in various platforms throughout the year.

We now look forward to launching into the 2022 academic year. All students who will be in Years 8-12 in 2022 are expected to attend the *Headstart* program which is providing varied experiences for all year levels. Year 11 and 12 students will be having classes for all their new subjects and homework will be set, in readiness for the 2022 academic year. The Year 7 2022 students will attend their first full orientation day on Tuesday 7 December.

### Student Leadership

The College Captains and House Captains participated in a Leadership program on Thursday with the new House Leaders, the Sport and Co-curricular Co-ordinator and the Heads of School. We are very excited about the new leadership structure at the senior school for students and staff.

### Key Events:

#### Assembly and Commissioning of the Year 11 & 12 students of 2022.

On Tuesday 30 November, we will be launching the *Headstart Program* for the senior school with the commissioning of the Year 11 and Year 12 students before they begin their new classes.

#### A Night to Shine on Thursday 2 December at 7pm in the Fr Tobin Gymnasium.

Year 12 award winners have already been invited. The Year 7-11 Award winners were confirmed today and invitations are in the process of being sent out.

**Final Day for Students and Advent Mass.** On Friday 3 December, *Headstart* classes will continue for periods 1 and 2, followed by Mass and Year Level Assemblies before students return to their 2021 Homerooms for the final, end of year activities.

**The Year 7, 2022 Orientation Day** will be held on Tuesday 7 December. Relevant Information has been communicated to the families. Thank you to the student leaders who have volunteered to assist.

## From the Deputy Principal of Learning and Teaching

Mr Bryson

*"You can't go back in time and start over again, but you can still aim for a new ending starting from now."*

Source: Shreemayee Sahoo

For many students as well as teachers and families, we are looking forward to the end of the term and following another long and exhausting year battling with the impact of COVID-19 and extended periods of remote learning, the end is insight. At the same time, as we approach the end of the school year, there is still much to be done and

Leadership Day



much to be proud of and celebrated. With this in mind, the above quote reminds us not to allow the challenges of the past to define how we end the year but rather how we may embrace the various programs and College events as opportunities to look forward to next year with a sense of hope and optimism, as well as pride in what we have all achieved this year.

That is, students are encouraged to approach Headstart as a new beginning and events such as A Night to Shine, and other end of year assemblies provide us with the chance to gather as a community to celebrate the achievements of our students and recognise their commitment to excellence throughout this year.

I wish all our students the best for the final week of the school year and hope the College's Headstart program and other College events, provides students with a strong sense of pride in what they have achieved this year whilst also building the foundations for a successful 2022.

### Headstart Program

The Headstart program will commence on Monday 29 November and conclude on the final day of the Advent Term, Friday 3 December.

A brief outline of each day is listed below for your reference.

#### Monday 29 November (Semester Two timetable)

All Year 7 to 11 classes will continue based on the current Semester Two timetable (Monday 'A' timetable) and will include Examination feedback sessions for Year 9, 10 and 11 students.

#### Tuesday 30 November to Thursday 2 December (2022 Timetable)

As of Tuesday 30 November, all year levels will commence their 2022 classes rolling over to their Semester One timetable.

#### Friday 3 December (Final day of the Advent Term)

Students will be in classes based on the 2022 Semester One timetable (periods 1 and 2).

End of Year Advent Mass (periods 3 and 4).

Pastoral Activities and year level assemblies (periods 5 and 6).

In addition to the above details, please note:

- ▶ Current Year 8 students will also be participating in an alternative SHINE program throughout the week.
- ▶ VCAL students will also be involved in other set activities on Wednesday and Thursday.
- ▶ ACER PAT Testing will be held for Year 8, 9, and 10 students on Wednesday 1 December (periods 1 and 2).

Further information outlining the above activities has been shared with individual students and please contact your child's Homeroom Teacher or Year Level Co-ordinator with any questions. A detailed outline of the Headstart program is also available for students to view on the Daily Messages section on SIMON and a copy has been posted on PAM for families to access.

We look forward to the commencement of our Headstart program and wish your child all the best for next week.

### Year 11 Art Students Embrace Indigenous Art

Earlier this term, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Year 11 Art students and share in their final presentations as part of their work and ongoing project with artist Cassie Leatham.

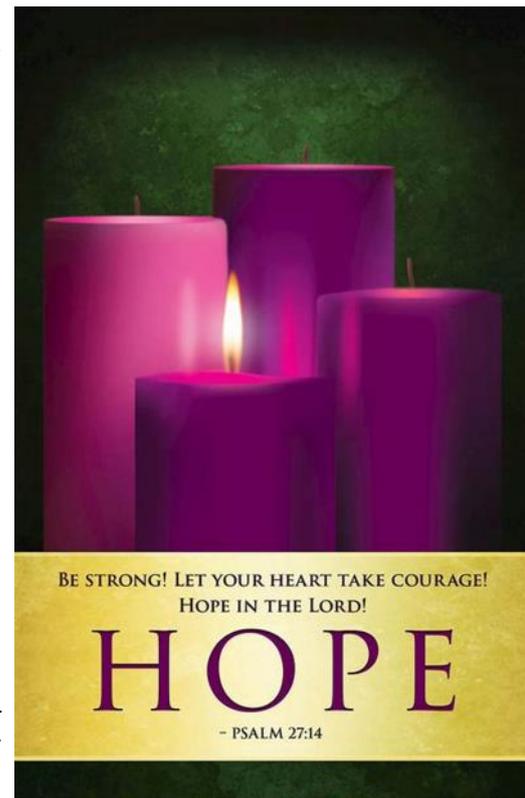
It was a privilege to witness their presentations and hear how their personal stories inspired their artwork. It was equally impressive to see how open they were in expressing this in front of their peers, and I congratulate each of them for this.

Below is a reflection highlighting the work undertaken by this class, and I wish to acknowledge their teacher, Ms Mary Udovicic who initiated this project and applaud



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her work and passion in guiding these students through this amazing journey.

During 2021, Year 11 Art students worked with artist Cassie Leatham, a Taungurung/Wurundjeri woman of the Kulin Nation exploring traditional weaving techniques. COVID-19 lockdowns certainly challenged the collaboration as face-to-face workshops could not be facilitated with all workshops being held online.

However, the students persevered and created works that represented their family story, culture and ambitions. On Friday 9 November, students presented their final artworks to Cassie via Microsoft Teams. It was a moving experience to hear the rich stories that inspired each work.

In addition to this working collaboration the College commissioned Cassie to produce a 'Healing Mat' for the College to keep. This work will be delivered to the College early in December 2021.

*"The colours in the work represent collaboration and skill-sharing and an acknowledgement of the ones before us, the traditional owners. Woven entirely by hand, this healing mat contains native bird feathers I've collected from Country. It also represents the stories of the staff and students from Thomas Carr College Art class who shared this journey with me and enriched their knowledge of weaving. The feathers used in the work reflect the strength of the emu, strong and resilient, with each feather giving the soft nurturing feel of love and respect. Emu feathers are used as they signify keeping one safe while travelling, secure and protected"*

Cassie Leatham, 2021

Thomas Carr College Community has a deep respect for indigenous people and their culture. Pope Francis highlights the need to learn and draw from indigenous views of the world in which we all live:

*"It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. For them, land is not a commodity but a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values"*

Pope Francis, 2015 LAUDATO SI'

## From the Head of Senior School

Mrs Sheridan

This last week has been a very busy time in the Senior School. We have had the end of semester examinations and now we are about to move into 2022 Headstart week. Such is the nature of schools that we finish one thing and commence the next. I enjoy this chance for renewal to reset the goals and begin anew. I have made sure I have been in the larger examinations whenever possible. I explain each time that the purpose of these examinations is to go through the process and learn from it in preparation for the VCE examinations that are to come. The results from these examinations when we reflect upon them, help us make better choices in the future. Students can ask themselves:

- What study technique suits me best in this subject?
- How can I use my reading time better?
- Did I seek assistance from the teacher early enough?
- Did I commit enough time to the revision process?

Parents can guide without criticism. It is a learning time. Parents can ask the students to reflect on these questions and then make some plans to try next time. It is a collective effort for any student to achieve their best in their final years of VCAL or VCE – parents, students and teachers working together.

In my role I meet many wonderful parents and community leaders. It is a gift to me. Most enjoyable is the parent who only wants the best for their child. Recently I had a parent and student interview and the parent commented "well he's my son, so of course we are close, I love him".



Year 9 Students thriving in the esports program at Wyndham Tech



This expression of unconditional love is so powerful. The student had clearly heard this before but stating such in front of non-family members reminds the student that they are going to be loved and supported – regardless of mistakes and examination results. It carries such an important message for our young people.

In this last article for The Beacon, I want to acknowledge the stellar work of our staff – teaching and non-teaching. Working alongside dedicated and committed professionals makes coming to work a joy. The students are “the why” of our vocation but the collegiality can be the difference between a good day and one we would prefer to finish. I have been particularly blessed in 2021 by working alongside a group of YLCs from 7-12 who care about the students beyond the requirement of their job. They have passion for teaching and guiding the students along the very complicated journey of being a teenager. I am also very grateful for the professional and purposeful work of Mr Cam Rowe (Head of Middle School) and Ms Lucy Angelico (Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing). In these roles we have worked in unity to create a better culture and environment for the students of Thomas Carr College. May the Christmas Season bring us joy with all the blessings of family and friendship.

## From the Head of Middle School

Mr Rowe

The end of the year is always a hectic time in schools and Thomas Carr College is no exception. We are all “finishing up” with 2021 and starting with 2022.

This week we had our final Middle School assembly for 2021, I was so proud to see and hear about the fantastic things that our students have achieved this year, under such difficult circumstances. I spoke to the students reminding them to keep in mind the lessons they have learnt this year, as it is the way we work through the difficult times that define our true character.

As we move into Headstart week, there will be many changes happening for our Middle School. Our Year 7 and 8 students will move into their 2022 mentor groups and get a taste of what 2022 will look like. Our Year 9 students will move into the Senior School and their Vertical PALM groupings. I am excited for the changes and the benefits that these will bring our students while at the same time disappointed that I will not be here next year to see it as I move to a different educational setting. I must thank the many people – particularly our amazing Year Level Coordinators – for the support and professional manner they have approached every encounter in 2021.

Middle School is formative and significant to establish good routines and organizational structures to help students become the best learners they can become. Headstart gives us the opportunity to begin, to start, to address the work of 2022 and thus ease the stresses prior to the start of the school year.

As we move towards the holiday break I wish all in the Thomas Carr College community a safe and restful break. Make the most of the time spent with loved ones without the burden of restrictions and gaps they create. Thankyou to all that have made my 11 years at the College something that I will remain eternally grateful for and look back at fondly.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of 2021 and the best possible start for 2022.

## From the Director of Faith and Mission

Mrs McCarthy

### Our God of Advent Hope

Last Sunday, we entered the season of Advent, a time during which we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas is on the horizon, and during this time of Advent, we are invited to wait in joyful hope.

What does it mean to wait in *joyful hope*?



Year 11 VCAL Self-expression. A poem written by a Year 11 student as provided by Ms Micallef

### The Basketball Lifestyle

Life is like playing basketball  
Dribble, run, walk, Jump and Shoot  
You must be physically and mentally ready  
You must prepare for all outcomes  
without a ball and a goal  
the game will be pointless  
Such is life  
So keep an eye on the ball and focus  
on the goal ahead  
Dribble, sweat, give energy and effort  
Every second you spend on that court  
Give it your all  
And play with enthusiasm and joy  
The basketball lifestyle...



The Advent journey ~  
Hope becomes peace.  
Peace becomes joy.  
Joy becomes Love.  
Love becomes Christ.

In this, our year of Hope, the season of Advent can teach us a lot about what it means for us to be a hope-filled people. During this time of waiting and expectation, we remember God's promise to bring good out of evil, joy out of sadness. And on the basis of those memories of the past, we have new hope for the future. Even in the face of death. Even in the fear of loss.

This is what Christian hope looks like. It doesn't ignore fear, anxiety, and doubt. It holds steady, clinging to peace in the midst of chaos. Through life's many storms, Christian hope is grounded on something greater that has happened – the coming of Jesus into our world and into our hearts - and something greater that is yet to happen again. So as this school year comes to an end, let us give thanks for all the blessings we have received. And let us pray that the Christ child in the manger be both a source of comfort, joy and hope.

### Standing Up for Religious Freedom

In coming weeks, the Victorian Parliament will vote on legislation that will affect religious freedom and the independence, integrity and ethos of Catholic agencies and organisations, including schools. Under current laws, Catholic organisations – along with other Christian, Jewish, Islamic and all faith-based educational establishments – have the right to choose to hire employees who are dedicated to upholding their religious identity.

The proposed Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021 will seriously diminish the rights of religious organisations to manage their activities according to their faith and conscience.

Attached to this edition of The Beacon is a copy of a letter from Archbishop Peter Comensoli to Victorian members of parliament and the Standing up for religious freedom factsheet.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools has developed a letter for local state members of parliament and federal members of parliament, which members of our school community can use to make sure our position on this important issue is heard. Please click on these links if you would like a template of this letter.

### Thank You

As the end of the College Year comes to an abrupt end, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable support our College continues to receive from our Canonicals, Fr Albert Yogarajah, Fr Vincent John CMI, Fr Jude Pirotta MSSP, and Fr Silvio Bezzina MSSP who work tirelessly to ensure that our Catholic identity at Thomas Carr College is rich and part of the fabric of parish life. We especially acknowledge Fr Silvio's contribution as a valued member of the Faith and Mission Team of which Mary Udovicic (RE Teacher), Shirley Dagmang (Social Justice Coordinator) and Elizabeth Holligan (Head of Learning, RE) are also members. We look forward to welcoming our new auxiliary bishop, Bishop Martin Ashe who will be the principal celebrant at our end of year Advent Mass.

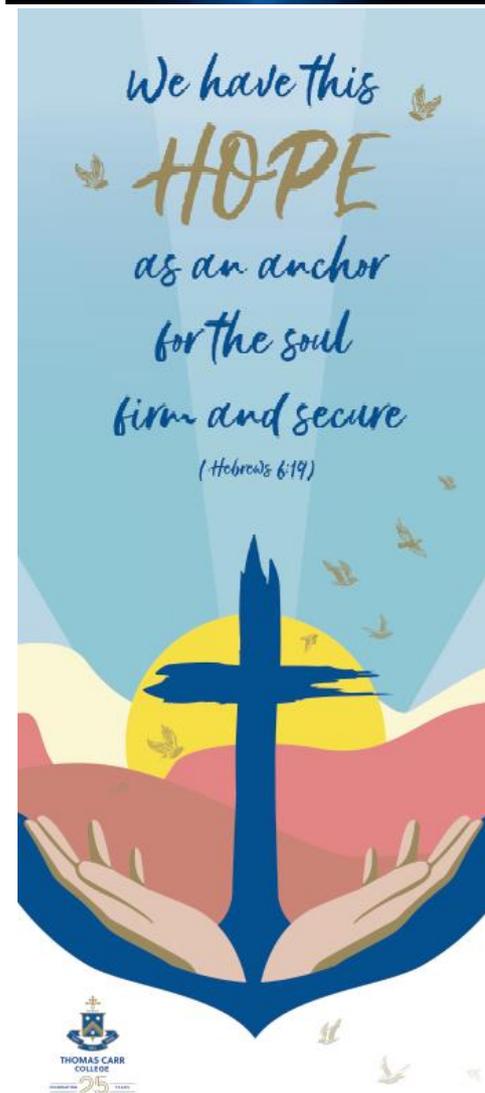
I also wish to pay tribute to our 2021 Liturgy Captains who have assisted in many Faith and Mission events and liturgies throughout the year: Nicole Villegas, Josh Alfon, Mary Gatellaro, Oliver Pond, Rochelle Mohan, Alyssa Gaba and Divina Angeline Abiog. I also thank Riley Bugeja for his commitment as an altar server during the few masses we have had this year.

### From the Careers Leader

Mrs Nolan

### Industry & Enterprise (Unit 1)

Each Student in Year 10 studies VCE Industry & Enterprise (Unit 1) as a compulsory subject. Introduced to the College in 2019, Industry & Enterprise offers our students the opportunity to better understand and prepare themselves for the rapidly changing workforce. Industry and Enterprise allows our Students to develop personal career goals, apply work-related skills and plan future career pathways through a variety of Projects, including our Mock Interview Program.



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## Year 10 Mock Interview Program

During recent weeks all Year 10 Students studying Industry and Enterprise in Semester 2 participated in the Mock Interview Program as part of their formal assessment. The Mock Interview program is designed to provide our Students with a practice job interview but aligns to a real-life scenario. This semester our students applied for a casual retail position and tailored their preparation and research for this opportunity. Our Students were then interviewed online by an industry professional and/or recruiters.

Each interview ran for 20 minutes and provided our Students the opportunity to introduce themselves, articulate their employability skills, and ask questions in a safe environment. Formal, verbal feedback was then provided to each student on their performance; on what they did well and suggestions for the future. Through this process our Students were able to prepare for a real-life situation and receive feedback on their performance but in a simulated and supportive environment, thus preparing them for future interviews outside of the College. This process also allowed our Students to network with potential employers outside of the College.

It was pleasing to see the confidence in our Students and how well they had prepared for their interview. We are also very grateful to the many outside Industry professionals who, again their time and dedication to assist our Students. The feedback from them has been very positive in both the preparation of our Students and their conduct and interview performance. Well done to all Students, you should be very proud of your achievements.



## From the Year 10 Coordinator & Senior Italian Teacher

Mrs Parcesepe

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, all Year 7 students studying Italian participated in the Centre For Italian Studies' annual Poetry Competition. Students were given a list of poems to choose from, and had to memorise, practice and then recite their poem in front of judges. Even though the event was moved online, Thomas Carr College students absolutely shone! Many students received *Certificati di Lode* (Honours) or *Merito* (Merit) and all students were praised for their hard work. A huge *auguri* to Sean Tomelty (7 Purple) and Rhys Are (7 White) on placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the overall competition. With over 500 participants, this is a huge achievement! Well done to all students who participated. *Bravi ragazzi!*



## From the Indonesian Teacher

Ms Shaw

### Online Exchange Program Between Margie School Surabaya, Indonesia and Thomas Carr College

The following Thomas Carr College students have been awarded certificates for taking part in this online program; Cyrus Morales, Ryan Tesoriero, Anton Antiga, Jacobe Fisher, Tamyra Riturban, Susanna Tomelty, Mia Whitefield and Daniel Bozovic.



Students are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and dedication to this program. They met with Indonesian students through zoom weekly during term 4 and worked together on improving their language and cultural understanding. Tasks included making their fusion food menus and presenting these online.





*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor123

10 November 2021

To: *Members of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council*

**Concerns about the diminishing of religious freedom and the accumulation of power**

Dear Honourable Member,

My prayerful greetings to you. I write to express grave misgivings I share with other faith leaders, in relation to the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*.

The proposed legislation diminishes the ability of faith organisations to confidently manage employment matters according to their faith and conscience.

As a point of principle, this is a serious over-reach of the Government into the rightful freedoms of faith-based organisations in Victoria. Organisations of care charity, including religious and church agencies, have a right to practice their faith without new administration burdens and pressures.

In my own context, Catholic organisations are inclusive and welcoming places, not despite but *because* they are Catholic. Across all sectors in Catholic organisational contexts, I am particularly concerned that the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test is a serious intrusion into the expression of faith, and an unnecessary instrument of power. It will lead to vexatious claims being adjudicated by a Commissioner or the Courts, neither of which have competency to define religious matters for believers.

The Government has been unable to identify a single problem in Catholic schools with which this legislation is meant to address, and many in my community are therefore concluding that the Government means to diminish the rights of large religious communities and concurrently target religious minorities. I hope this is not the case.

To people of faith, this is looking increasingly like a willingness to hurt the rightful expression of religious faith coupled with an extravagant adoption of political power over our lives. Please see attached my statement to the media of 2 October.

With great respect to our public representatives, I urge a mature re-think on both of the above proposals, and for a fairer and democratic approach to be taken.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne

## Equal opportunity laws – letter to state members of parliament

Dear <MP NAME>

I write to you in reference to the Victorian Government's proposed *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*, which will seriously diminish the rights of religious organisations to manage their activities according to their faith and conscience.

As a parent, I have chosen to educate my child in a Catholic school because the traditions of the Church are not only passed on through what is taught, but what is practised and what is witnessed in our learning communities.

The role of teachers and support staff in my school community is more than just teaching or performing administrative duties – it is expected that they model the Catholic ethos in all aspects of their daily lives.

I am very concerned that the Victorian Government's changes might mean that Catholic schools could be forced to hire staff who are actively at odds with the teachings and ethos of the Catholic community. The proposed inherent requirements test could leave it up to a bureaucrat or a legal court to determine what a necessary or inherent aspect of a religion is, and what jobs in a school require conformity with the content of a school's religion. This poses a clear threat to the integrity of my school by severely undermining the faith and values-based education it currently provides.

The change in law appears to be written without an understanding of Catholic school communities. The principles, values and beliefs that form the culture of a Catholic school don't disappear when the bell rings at the end of the day, but are actually an inherent part of the fabric of school life.

Parents living in your electorate, like me, have a right to expect that, when they choose a Catholic school for their child's education, their child will be educated in an environment that is consistent with the teachings of the Church.

Please don't take that right away from me and my family. Please vote against the Victorian Government's proposed Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill.

Yours sincerely