

UPDATE

Catherine McAuley College Mackay



*from Foundation
Principal Jim Ford*



Issue 1 | 24 February 2021

Welcome to our first edition of the Catherine McAuley College Update.

Thank-you for your interest in our new College. A school is only as good as the committed people who turn up each day and make the experience a gratifying one for students, staff, and community alike.

This update will be provided on a fortnightly basis to keep you informed of how we are progressing and establishing our new college, focused on welcoming you and your family to be part of our community in 2022.

Regards

Jim Ford

Jim Ford
Foundation Principal

Who is Catherine McAuley?

Catherine McAuley was the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy and the name given to our new college reflects the significant contribution the Sisters have made to the establishment and development of Catholic schools in the Mackay region since 1880.

She was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1778 and passed away in 1841. In 1827, Catherine established the 'House of Mercy' in Baggot Street, Dublin where she and several companions taught the poor, cared for the sick and provided shelter for the homeless.

In 1830 she entered the Presentation Convent to prepare for religious life and she took final vows on 12 December 1831 which is now celebrated as the Foundation Day for the Sisters of Mercy.

A woman of deep faith who devoted her adult life to ministering to the poor and destitute where she emphasized the importance of education, justice, service, stewardship,

and respect for the dignity of each person. These qualities have inspired thousands of students who have received a quality Catholic education at a Mackay Catholic school, founded and/or staffed by the Sisters of Mercy over the past 140 years.

Our new College will adopt the Charism of the Sisters of Mercy and this will inspire the College's Educational Mission and help shape the College's identity from its very inception.

More information about Catherine can be found via this [link](#) to Mercy International Association.

Pictured below the statue of Catherine McAuley outside of the House of Mercy in Baggot Street Dublin, Ireland.



Building update

Building remains on schedule on Nebo Road despite heavy rain earlier in the year.

Although some parts of the site temporarily resembled swimming pools over the holiday period, we are very confident that preplanning has accounted well for weather disruptions during the construction phase

Works now under way include development of carparks and surrounds, completion of demolition works in the iconic Karl Langer Building and commencement of conversion works to



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administration and teaching areas, foundations and footings laid for new buildings as well as the commencement of structural components.

We have laid the foundations and commenced construction of Block E, our three-storey building that incorporates a canteen, student amenities and covered lunch area on the ground floor, a state-of-the-art Science Precinct on the second floor and on the top floor five well appointed general learning areas.

In addition, our Physical Education Precinct has begun to take shape with the structural steel erected for the spacious covered sports courts.

The proposed masterplan for the College will see construction over four stages as enrolment demand is realised with the College catering for Year 7 in 2022 and progressively increasing year levels to cater for Years 7 to 12 by 2027.

The response from the Mackay community has been exceedingly positive which is a strong indicator of the growing demand for Catholic schooling in Mackay and the ongoing development of the region.

Catherine McAuley College is due to open next January for the start of the school year.

Our new college will further add to the existing options for Mackay families who choose a Catholic Education for their children.



Woollam Constructions

Woollam Constructions Managing Director Craig Percival said the project was exciting for the Mackay region. "We're proud to work with Catholic Education in the Diocese of Rockhampton on this innovative project," Mr Percival said. "We're always excited to work on projects that will ultimately bring great community benefit, particularly in this part of Queensland where we have a great history. The project is on schedule."

A quote from Catherine McAuley

A good beginning is of great importance

Further information about Catherine McAuley College can be found at

The Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton website

www.rok.catholic.edu.au

or by emailing

cmc@rok.catholic.edu.au

**The next update will be issued
on Wednesday 10 March 2021**



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