



Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350

P.O. Box 121
Ballarat VIC 3353

Phone: (03) 5337 7121

Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr Tom Sexton** to the position of Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Ballarat.

With over 30 years of experience in Catholic Education, Tom has spent more than 24 years in senior leadership roles. He has a track record of improving school performance, most recently through his involvement in educational consultancy with various Dioceses across Australia.

Tom has served mainly in our neighbouring Diocese of Sandhurst, first of all as a teacher in Catholic Primary Schools for 7 years and then as Principal for 13 years. He was on the staff of the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office for 2 years as Education Officer with a focus on Technology and then for 11 years as Assistant Director with responsibility for Planning and Resources.

Tom understands the varied strengths and challenges of different types and sizes of schools – from small rural schools to large regional colleges. He brings many years of experience with the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project. He has served on numerous Diocesan, State and National Education Committees. He is active in his continuing professional development. In addition to his qualifications in the Education field, Tom has completed a Masters of Business Administration.

Tom's faith was nurtured in his Catholic family. Over the years, he has been much involved in his local parish community. At various times, in a range of parishes, he has been a reader and a special minister of the Eucharist and has served on parish committees. Tom comes from a rural background, living on a farm north of Shepparton. He and his wife, Ann, have 5 adult children. They are looking forward to making Ballarat their home.

Tom says, *"It is a privilege and an honour to have been appointed Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Ballarat. I am very excited by the opportunity to lead Catholic education within the Diocese. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the community as together we continue to provide quality Catholic education across the Diocese."*

Our position attracted a large number of experienced applicants from across Australia. The Selection Committee that advised me was made up of senior people who understand Catholic Education and our Diocesan context. We were assisted in this process by an external consultant.

I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Tom as our new Director of Catholic Education. He will take up this appointment on Monday 17 August 2020.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat