A Catholic Diocese is the group of Catholics who live in a particular area under the leadership of their Bishop. There are more than 2,000 Dioceses in the world. Australia has 28 and Queensland has five – Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Brisbane.

The Diocese of Townsville spans the North Queensland coastal region from Proserpine to the Cardwell Range and extends west to the Northern Territory border. Catholic schools are located in the major commercial centres of Townsville and Mount Isa and the rural communities of Ayr, Home Hill, Bowen, Proserpine, Collinsville, Ingham and district, Charters Towers, Winton, Hughenden, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Palm Island.

Catholic Education in the Diocese of Townsville is united around Bishop Michael Putney as leader and teacher.
Welcome

More than 12,000 students attend our 32 Catholic schools and colleges in the Townsville Diocese, an area that centres on the city of Townsville and extends west to Mount Isa, south to Proserpine, north to Ingham and includes Palm Island.

Catholic schools are communities that embrace Catholic values and give students a lasting sense of belonging. In each school, the Principal, staff, parents and church work together to ensure that students are educated within a faith-based community. Gospel values underlie the teaching practices and all school programs.

A Catholic education provides students with more than just academic instruction. Students from Prep - Year 12 are educated to develop spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically to become contributing and life-giving members of our community.

Parental involvement is encouraged and welcomed as we believe that an effective partnership between home and school is vital.

We welcome you to the growing community that is Catholic Education.

Dr Cathy Day
DIRECTOR

The Concept of Catholic Education

Mission

Catholic Education is an expression of Christ’s mission entrusted to the Church. The Catholic Church document, 'The Catholic School on the Threshold of the 3rd Millennium' refers to the Catholic school as being at the heart of the Church's mission. A challenge facing Catholic education is to recognise and state the conditions necessary for it to fulfill its mission today.

Family

Policy makers in the Diocese endeavour to reflect on the way their policies impact on families and try to ensure that there is appropriate parental involvement in the policy development process.

The Catholic School

The Catholic school is a community with the task of teaching the message of truth, proclaiming our mutual faith in Jesus Christ and our shared inner life of the spirit, building the community and critiquing and transforming society.

The staff of the Catholic Education Office is called to develop a Christian community united in faith, prayer and service.

The Gospel values are essential to the life of a Catholic school, which provides the environment for both the learning process, and the love of learning.

The Congregation for Catholic Education, Rome (1988) stated that:

"The Catholic school has a clear identity, not only as a presence of the church in society, but... as a genuine and proper instrument of the church. It is a place of evangelisation, of authentic apostolic and pastoral action."

The Diocesan Education Council

The Diocesan Education Council assists the Catholic education vision and identity to 'take shape within the Diocese' by shaping and monitoring educational policies consistent with the Diocesan Mission Statement. Members agree to a three-year term of office. Membership is drawn from such groups as:

- Parents & Friends' Committee
- Primary and Secondary Schools
- Priests & Pastoral Associates

As Bishop of the Townsville Diocese, Bishop Putney is President, and Dr Cathy Day as Director of the Catholic Education Office is Executive Secretary. The Coordinator of Diocesan Religious Education is an ex-officio member of the Diocesan Education Council. Meetings are usually held each month at the Catholic Education Office in Townsville.

www.tsv.catholic.edu.au
Life Long Learning

For many people in Australia, the Catholic school is their main contact with the Catholic Church. The Catholic school often provides a point of introduction or re-entry into the community of faith, worship and service of the church. This is particularly evident in times when the ultimate questions of life, death, faith and God are confronted.

All in Catholic schools are responsible for creating a just and peaceful society. Education and action for justice and peace are integral to the life of the Catholic school.

All people are continually called to grow in faith and love united with others as a community of disciples, and to come to a love of God and all creation.

Catholic Education is a life-long process that fosters the development of the whole person.

Catholic Education Office Structure

The Director, leadership team and staff members of the Catholic Education Office share the responsibility of implementing the policy of the Diocesan Education Council and providing professional support services to all engaged in Catholic Education. The level of their commitment to Christ and their willingness to be integral to the mission of the Church in the ministry of Catholic Education will have far-reaching effects upon the Diocese.

The present office structure includes a Strategic Leadership Team comprising:

- Director
- Assistant Director - Religious Education, Curriculum, ICT and Indigenous Education
- Assistant Director - School Services
- Manager - Administration & Finance

Standing Committees to assist the Director with administrative responsibilities have been established as Catholic Education Office structures. Members of the committee must be approved by the Bishop and take part in ongoing programs, which facilitate development and implementation of Catholic education in the Diocese.

Standing Committees

- Indigenous Education
- Planning and Development
- Staffing
- Targeted Programs
- Curriculum
- Finance
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Accommodation
- Environmental Awareness
- ICT

The committees, guided by their terms of reference and functions, meet regularly and their work lies in policy formulation or aspects of implementation of policy.

Community Involvement

The Townsville Diocese has a strong tradition of encouraging community involvement in shaping its future. Diocesan reviews, which give purpose and direction to our planning, are conducted every five years.

There are several formal structures within the Diocese and within schools, which allow for community participation. These include:

- School Boards
- School Parents’ and Friends’ Associations
- Diocesan Parents’ and Friends’ Association
- School Finance Committees

The School Board

A School Board, established under the authority of the Bishop of Townsville, operates according to the framework and Constitution for School Boards in Catholic Schools in Queensland.

The aim of the Board is to ensure that the school fulfils its Christian educational responsibility within the general pastoral goals of theocese, and that it operates within the pastoral and educational goals and policies of the Diocese of Townsville.

The School Board is advisory to the Principal in areas such as:

- Policy making
- Provision and maintenance of school buildings and plant
- Budgeting
- Communication
- Curriculum
- Membership of the Board is comprised of ex-officio, elected and co-opted members. Board members are drawn from the parents, staff and the wider community, with meetings being held on a monthly basis.

Parents & Friends Association

At the School Level

The Parents and Friends’ (P & F) Association of the school provides a forum for the expression of parent opinion and for the discussion of matters of educational interest. It also provides support for the school community in areas such as social gatherings, fundraising, school maintenance and development of facilities.

At the Diocesan Level

An executive drawn from members of school Parents & Friends’ Associations acts as a co-ordinating group responding to state and Diocesan issues.

For more information, visit the Federation of Parents and Friends Qld website at www.panf.org.au
Catholic Schools in the Townsville Diocese

There are 21 primary schools, eight secondary colleges and three P-12 schools in the Diocese, serving more than 12,000 students and staffed by more than 1,500 teachers and staff. This includes two Religious Institute schools and the Flexible Learning Centres at Townsville and Mount Isa.

**Townsville Primary**
- Good Shepherd Catholic Community School, Rasmussen
- St Clare’s Catholic School, Burdell
- Holy Spirit School, Cranbrook
- Southern Cross Catholic School, Annandale
- The Marian Catholic School, Currajong
- St Joseph’s Catholic School, Mundingburra
- St Joseph’s School, The Strand

**Secondary**
- Ignatius Park College, Cranbrook (boys only)
- St Margaret Mary’s College, Hyde Park (girls only)
- St Patrick’s College, North Ward (girls only + boarding)
- Edmund Rice Flexible Learning Centre, West End

**P-12**
- Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan
- St Anthony’s Catholic College, Deeragun

**Western Region Primary**
- St Francis School, Hughenden
- St Patrick’s School, Winton
- St Joseph’s School, Glencurry
- St Kevin’s School, Mount Isa
- St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Mount Isa

**Secondary**
- Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mount Isa
- Edmund Rice Flexible Learning Centre, Mount Isa

**P-12**
- Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers (boarding)

**Northern Region Primary**
- St Michael’s School, Palm Island
- Our Lady of Lourdes School, Ingham
- Canossa School, Trebonne
- St Peter’s Catholic School, Halifax

**Secondary**
- Gilroy Santa Maria College, Ingham
- St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie (boys only + boarding)

**Southern Region Primary**
- St Francis School, Ayr
- St Colman’s School, Home Hill
- St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Bowen
- St Catherine’s School, Proserpine
- St John Bosco School, Collinsville

**Secondary**
- Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr

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**Contact Us**

For further information and assistance contact:
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