



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

October 5, 2018
18/860

***Being Church Together:
A Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles for the Parish-School Relationship***

To: Parish Priests, Pastoral Associates, School Principals, Deputy Principals, APRIMs, PPC Chairs, Chairs of School Boards, and Diocesan and Catholic Education SA (CESA) leadership

I write to you to share and invite your engagement with a document developed to help strengthen parish-school relationships. *Being Church Together: A Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles for the Parish-School Relationship* was developed at the request of the Archdiocese through a collaboration between Catholic Education SA and the Office for Renewing Parishes. A 12-month education, engagement and consultation process will now commence throughout the Archdiocese, and all parishes, schools and communities are invited to be involved.

Following the conclusion of this period of education, engagement and consultation in October 2019, the working draft will be reviewed by CESA's Catholic Identity and Leadership Standing Committee (which has had carriage of the document's development). Feedback gathered by Catholic Education SA and the Office for Renewing Parishes will lead to an approved final version.

The launch of the education, engagement and consultation phase will occur with two workshops at which the document will be made available and discussed:

- **Wednesday 7 November** (3:00 – 5:30 pm, includes afternoon tea)
The Monastery, Foley Room

- **Thursday 8 November** (10:00 am – 12:30 pm, includes light lunch)
Catholic Education Office, Rooms 7 and 8

You can register your attendance via this CESA Registration site:

<https://registrationcentre.cesa.catholic.edu.au/event-3083631>

My sincere hope is that, through this informing and dialogue process with key stakeholders, a vital document will emerge to nurture and support our valued parish-school relationships. *Being Church Together* offers leaders in parishes and schools a theology of church; a vision of 'being church together' in the parish-school relationship; guiding principles to strengthen the abilities of leaders and communities in having a quality relationship; and suggestions and resources for the ongoing dialogue in local contexts. Each parish and school is invited to reflect and discern together practical ways suited to their own contexts to make the vision of the 'Church being one body of Christ with many parts' a greater reality.

In addition to this, schools, parishes and diocesan agencies are invited to provide feedback over the next 12 months through various means, including an online survey. Engagement with the document could lead to several actions:

- Use the document as a catalyst to strengthen Parish-School relationships;
- Gather further local evidence of good practice that can be shared;
- Grow diocesan awareness of issues and challenges;
- Suggest ways in which the document may be improved;
- Share how the document has been used and outcomes of this engagement.

The importance of listening to one another to discern good local practices cannot be underestimated. In fact, this process lends itself beautifully to the Plenary Council 2020 'listening and dialogue' process currently underway throughout the Archdiocese and, indeed, across Australia.

For more information regarding *Being Church Together* document and the education, engagement and consultation process, please access the CESA Online website (at <https://online.cesa.catholic.edu.au/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-6776>) or the Office for Renewing Parishes webpage on the Archdiocese's website (<http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/office-for-renewing-parishes/parish-school-initiative>). Digital copies of the document, a summarising extract leaflet and link to the online feedback form will be available from these sites from early November.

For further information, please contact Michael Vial at CESA (michael.vial@cesa.catholic.edu.au) or Deacon Tim Grauel at the Office for Renewing Parishes (tgrauel@adelaide.catholic.org.au).

I would like to thank all those responsible for producing the document and pray for a richly beneficial outcome of the 12-month review process.

Yours in Christ,



Fr Philip Marshall
Administrator Delegate