



2 August 2024

Dear members of the Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School community,

I write to inform you that Mrs Leigh Bradshaw has advised she will conclude her time as Principal of Our Lady Help of Christians at the end of this year. Leigh has spent considerable time discerning her decision.

As you are aware, Leigh has been on personal leave since the start of term 2. Unfortunately, her leave will continue until the end of 2024.

Leigh is a passionate and compassionate educator and school leader. She has contributed significantly to the learning and teaching practices that exist at OLHC and which support the development and growth of both students and staff. Her ability to connect an effective learning atmosphere with a strong sense of wellbeing has been instrumental in ensuring all members of the OLHC community are considered and supported. In her time as Principal at OLHC, Leigh has created a positive working climate and dedicated time and energy to actions that respond to the school motto of 'every face has a place'. The OLHC school community is a better place for Leigh's leadership and contributions.

Leigh has ministered in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat since 1997. During this time, she has served as an educator and leader in the learning communities of St Columba's, Ballarat North, and Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree.

Leigh began her Principalship at Our Lady Help of Christians as a co-principal in 2016 and became sole Principal in 2018.

As Executive Director of Catholic Education Ballarat, I offer my appreciation and gratitude to Leigh for her wonderful contribution to our diocesan community.

To support the transition to a new principal of Our Lady Help of Christians, consultation and advertising for a replacement will commence shortly with the intent for the successful applicant to begin at the start of the 2025 school year.

In terms of arrangements for the remainder of 2024, I have asked Carmel Hanley, Principal of Lumen Christi, Delacombe, to consider the role of acting Principal at OLHC for the remainder of the year. With the support of the Lumen Christi leadership team, Carmel has generously and willingly agreed to this arrangement, for which I am extremely grateful. Carmel will begin this role on Monday, 12th August, and will be supported by Anthony Clifford in the coming days for a smooth transition.

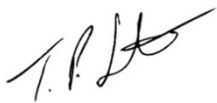
Carmel is an experienced educational leader who understands the Ballarat community and its context. She has a strong sense of wellbeing and the learning environment required to support effective teaching and learning. Carmel builds positive and connected relationships with all she comes into contact with and demonstrates warmth and kindness. She will readily transition into your beautiful community.

Again, I extend my gratitude to Mr Anthony Clifford, who has filled the interim Principal role since the start of term 2 with a deep sense of dedication, generosity and service. Anthony's commitment has been to ensure that the staff, students and families have what they need to do their work adequately and with consistency. Anthony's ongoing contribution to Catholic Education is to be commended, and his willingness to support the community of Our Lady's over the past months is admirable.

The work of the entire OLHC staff team is very much appreciated and valued. While this time of change can be challenging, I am grateful for their commitment to providing continuity of care and education.

I ask you to join me in wishing Leigh all the best as she extends her leave and concludes her time as Principal of the OLHC community. I am confident that your community will adequately show your appreciation to her and Anthony for their service and that you will warmly welcome and support Carmel for the remainder of the 2024 school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. P. Sexton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Sexton
Executive Director
Catholic Education Ballarat