



**Message from
Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth
To all Primary and Secondary
Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Perth**

Dear friends and colleagues,

As I sit at my desk writing this letter to welcome you all to a new year in Catholic Education I can see from my office window the increasing busy-ness of Adelaide Terrace as people return to work after the summer break. I hope you all had a restful and enriching time with family and friends and that the new year has begun well for you.

In welcoming everyone back to a new school year I particularly want to welcome those who are joining Catholic Education for the first time. Based as our Catholic education system is on the values of the gospel and the long and rich tradition of the Catholic faith, it is my hope that you will experience the warm welcome and whole-hearted support which should be the hallmark of the followers of Christ. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year and coming to appreciate the contribution you will undoubtedly make to this vital work of our Church.

Many of you, especially those who have been involved in our schools over the last five years, may have heard me speak about what I consider to be the unique contribution Catholic Education makes to the educational landscape here in Western Australia and in Australia as a whole. We are rightly proud of the excellence of our schools in so many areas: the quality of our teaching, the dedication of our staff, the depth of our pastoral care, the community spirit of our schools, the level of parental involvement, and so on. I have often remarked that a Catholic school will not be a good Catholic school if it is not a good school. We are all involved together in the work of education and we must, and do, strive to fulfil this role with as much professional rigour as we can. But what makes Catholic schools unique is the conviction that to exclude the God question, the spiritual dimension, from our educational enterprise, and for us as Christians in the Catholic tradition to exclude the person and the teachings of Jesus as they come to us through the Church, would be to deprive our children and young people of something that is vital to a full and enriching understanding of the world we live in and our place in it. A Catholic school will not be a good Catholic school if it is not Catholic.

In committing yourself to work in our Catholic education system you become a key contributor to this essential dimension of our schools. Our catch-cry is often that in our schools we educate the whole person. In the area of faith, spirituality and religion, it will be not just what we say but what we do and who we are which will make the greatest contribution to the fostering of a truly "Catholic" community in which are young people are invited into the mystery of God at work in their lives.

Thank you for committing yourself to this challenge which is also, of course, an awesome responsibility. You can be sure that you have my prayerful support as you seek to respond to what God is asking of you for the good of the children and young people in your care.

Yours sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Costelloe SDB".

**Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD
Archbishop of Perth**