

ST JOSEPH'S COLERAINE NEW LEARNING SPACE

On Friday, November 13, Bishop Paul Bird officially opened and blessed the new learning space at St Joseph's School in Coleraine. This was a fantastic celebration of hard work and opportunity. Along with Bishop Paul, guests included Fr John Corrigan, Fr Paddy Mugavin, Brad Carr from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB), parents and community members.

The new school came about when it was realised that the old building was in

need of structural repair and in much worse shape than first thought. Funding was sought and received through the Supplementary Capital Fund, with the assistance of CEOB. This funding allowed for the design and build of a new 21st century learning space that would support educational needs while reaffirming and strengthening Catholic identity within the local community and wider Diocese of Ballarat.



The new school were transported to the site over four days by truck after being constructed as eleven separate modules in King Lake, Victoria. The co-ordination of putting the building together was amazing to watch as the school took shape and was at lock up stage in three days. Next, the trades worked very hard and within another ten weeks, we were able to occupy our brand new school. The school itself is comprised of two large classrooms, a learning hub, school lounge, resource room, administration office and conference room.

Twenty-five students and six staff members are happily settled in now. The students are revelling in their new surroundings and a steady flow of local community members still arrive at our door, asking if they could come in and take a look around.

We greatly appreciate all the effort and support of many, including the Catholic Education Office, members of the Capital Supplementary Fund committee, our education consultants, the Catholic Development Fund, our builders (KLMS Construction and Fairbrother Construction) and tradespeople who helped to make our school a contemporary model for Catholic Education in Western Victoria. St Joseph's School, Coleraine warmly welcomes all of you to come out and visit us soon.

