



PRINCIPALS NEW TO THE BALLARAT DIOCESE IN 2016

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new principals in four schools around the Diocese. We introduce Mr Joe Caruana - St Aloysius School Redan, Ms Marg Blythman - St Joseph's College Mildura, Mrs Leigh Bradshaw - Co-principal at Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree and Mr Paddy Ryan, also Co-principal at Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

Mr Joe Caruana, St Aloysius School, Redan

Joe is in his 30th year of Catholic Primary School Principalship. Most of his career in teaching has been working in Melbourne's Western Suburbs and New Gisborne to the north. His formal qualifications include studies in Religious Education, Education Law and Community Mediation. Joe is married to Jill and they are proud parents of six grown up children and two grandchildren, soon to be three.

Joe's passion in education is children with additional learning needs and he has strived to provide the best educational offerings for these children in cooperation with his staff and children's families. He loves spending time in classrooms and playing his guitar for the children (and sometimes their teachers!) to sing along. Joe also enjoys working on Annual Action Plans and other plans to ultimately improve children's learning outcomes.

St Aloysius School is Joe's first appointment in Ballarat and he is loving working in the Central Zone with the many wonderful principals who also work there.



Ms Marg Blythman, St Joseph's College, Mildura



As the new Principal of St Joseph's College Mildura, Marg is honoured to be part of the Catherine McAuley and Mercy tradition. Her teaching journey spans thirty years with a three-year hiatus working in a community based role. Her most recent experience has been as a Deputy Principal - Head of Campus at St Francis Xavier College, Melbourne. Prior to that Marg was a Director of Learning, Director of VCE and Learning Area Leader. She is also well versed in student wellbeing, having spent six years as a House Coordinator.

Marg's love and passion for the teaching profession runs deep. Even though she serves as a Principal she is a teacher first in habit, heart and soul. She is delighted to be involved with a community which has

provided wonderful educational opportunities for young people for over a century. She is keen to create the conditions in which every student flourishes. She believes in the power of high expectations and a context where every student is challenged to do and be the best possible.

Her first impression of St Joseph's College is that it is a faith filled centre where students put forth their best effort to learn, where parents are welcome partners in the education of their children and where staff come to work with a sense of anticipation and leave at the end of the day with a feeling of satisfaction. Marg looks forward to experiencing and enjoying the success of the students at the College.

Mrs Leigh Bradshaw, Co-principal at Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree

Leigh was born in Geelong and graduated from Australian Catholic University - Aquinas Campus with her first teaching position at St Columba's, Ballarat North. After four years Leigh began teaching in the United Kingdom for seven years working as a classroom teacher and Middle Leader. Upon returning to Australia in 2007, Leigh settled again in Ballarat with her young family and began teaching at Our Lady Help of Christians six years ago. During her time at OLHC, Leigh has worked in a variety of roles, most recently as Learning Leader and Acting Deputy Principal.

Leigh feels privileged to have the opportunity to be Co-Principal with Paddy Ryan alongside their school and parish communities. Leigh sincerely believes that we are better when we work together with the children we serve as our focus.



Mr Paddy Ryan, Co-principal at Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree



Paddy was born in Bendigo the year of the Melbourne Olympic games. Being the youngest of six, Paddy was afforded all the comforts, and jealously, necessary for the youngest to flourish. Paddy's primary years were spent at St Monica's in Kangaroo Flat, just south of Bendigo, and his secondary education at Marist Brothers College, Bendigo.

'Teacher trained' at ACU Aquinas College Ballarat, and since graduating in 1980, Paddy has taught exclusively in Ballarat; St Thomas More Alfredton, St Augustine's Creswick, St James Sebastopol and OLHC Wendouree. Paddy has held various Leadership positions and taught in many multi-age settings from Preparatory to year six.

Paddy is honoured to be appointed Co-principal with Leigh Bradshaw this year and together they are looking forward to a positive and productive twelve months.