

## OPENING AND BLESSINGS AT ACU

Australian Catholic University (ACU) recently consecrated the new St Thomas Aquinas Chapel and blessed the Catherine of Siena Centre on the Ballarat Campus.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, presided over the consecration and blessed the facilities, together with ACU Campus Chaplain, Fr James Kerr and ACU Director of Identity and Mission, Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA.

The Catherine of Siena Centre reflects both our rich past and exciting future. The Centre is a combination of four heritage houses, which still have their original frontages facing Ripon Street in order to keep in character with the neighbourhood and there is a very modern façade fronting the Campus. Morton Dunn Architects are responsible for the innovative design and the works were carried out by Page Constructions. The end result is an extremely functional space for the Schools of Education, Arts and Theology and Philosophy.

The building is named after St Catherine of Siena, a teacher in the Dominican Order and a Scholastic philosopher and theologian. It is also named after Sister Catherine of Siena, a Sister of Mercy in Ballarat. The naming of this Centre represents both Catherine of Siena and Sister Catherine of Siena and the Mercy tradition over one hundred years.

Over the past twelve months the St Thomas of Aquinas Chapel at the Ballarat Campus has also undergone a major transformation. Central to the improvements are high, stained-glass windows that create a stunning effect by activating the space with coloured light throughout the day.

The Chapel is named after another great figure St Thomas Aquinas, whose name has been associated with the Campus for more than 100 years, and is considered the Catholic Church's greatest theologian and philosopher. Aquinas is the patron saint of Catholic Education and the St Thomas Aquinas Chapel is at the heart of the campus experience for students and staff.



Fr James Kerr, Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA. Photograph supplied by Ian Wilson Photography.

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