

Media Release: 2 September 2021

Marist Schools Australia explores key themes of the ACBC 2021-22 Social Justice Statement

Marist school staff and ministry leaders from across Australia met online with Dr Sandie Cornish on the 30th of August to explore the key themes of the Bishops' social justice statement *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Dr Cornish is the leader of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference *Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace*.

Participants reflected upon the major ecological issues facing the world, and explored ways that school communities could engage with the *Laudato Si Action Platform*. Pope Francis is calling all Catholics and Catholic organisations to embrace and embark on a seven-year journey towards the seven Laudato Si Goals. This includes ecological education, the adoption of sustainable lifestyles, and a response to the cry of the earth and the poor.

Dr Cornish spoke of discerning the signs of the times as seen through the eyes of those most affected, including listening to local communities, our sisters and brothers in neighbouring countries, our First Nations people, and creation itself. Sandie explained:

“Drawing upon the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching and listening to the Word of God in Scripture, we realise that humans are called to be caretakers rather than exploiters of all of creation.”

In the discussion that ensued, participants spoke of ways to implement the goals in their school settings. This included student awareness activities around climate and ecological change, participation in Laudato Si week and practical activities such as tree plantings and a commitment to reducing each school's carbon footprint.

For more information, contact:

Mr Paul Harris
Marist Mission and Life Formation
e| paul.harris@marists.org.au