



Catholic Diocese of Dunedin Te Hāhi Katorika o Otepoti

November 2025 Education and Property Edition

Message from the Education Team

This newsletter focuses on sharing the mahi supported by the Education Office and the Property Office projects underway during 2025 and thanking our Educators for their constructive feedback and support.

The education landscape has been fast-moving this year, led by the continued implementation of the New Zealand Catholic Bishop's Curriculum: Tō Tātou Whakapono – Our Faith. Resource materials have been released throughout the year, particularly supporting Years 5 and 6 and Years 7 and 8. Professional development has been a major focus, helping our teachers of intermediate-aged students to effectively implement these new resources.

This critical work is occurring against the backdrop of significant wider curriculum changes, including the need to implement refreshed Literacy and Numeracy content in the Primary sector, and forthcoming changes to NCEA being signalled for our Secondary Colleges.

In light of all this pressure to constantly upskill and integrate new curricula, I want to thank all the teachers in our Catholic network for their hard work and profound commitment to forming our rangatahi as people of faith and justice. Your dedication to their holistic growth is what defines our Special Character.

Ngā mihi, Paul (Operations/Education Manager) and Craig (Property Manager) for the Catholic Diocese of Dunedin.

Creating a Vision for the Whakatipu

Having completed the acquisition of land in Ladies Mile for the relocation of St Joseph's Queenstown, Bishop Michael has established a Bishop's Advisory Group to frame a "Vision for Catholic Education and Being Church, in the Wakatipu Basin, to guide developments for the next 15 years".



In order to help shape future developments, the Advisory group will formulate a draft vision and the Parish and School will use the Synodal process to give feedback. The draft will be circulated in December to give time for reflection and discernment over the holiday period and feedback will be gathered early in the new year. The local Ministry of Education roll projections are being used to analyse our needs and inform our decision making.



Pauline Ryan finishes the REA Role

As we come to the end of the academic year, we have some changes in the secondment of Religious Education Advisors.



Pauline Ryan has held the Dunedin secondment for three years and was the DRS at St Francis Xavier School and more recently has supported local schools. She is now moving on from

this role to spend more time improving her golf handicap. We thank her for the commitment she has shown to supporting her peers in the RE classroom.

Moving into the role is Clare Lewis, who is the DRS from St Peter Chanel, in Green Island. We look forward to welcoming Clare in the new year.



Hope in Ranfurly Parish

Last month, Teresa Hanratty RSM and Amy Armstrong travelled to Ranfurly to lead a reflection on Hope as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope. It was a prayerful and enriching time for the parish community to come together and reflect on what hope means in our lives, our Church, and our world today.

Pope Francis reminds us through this Jubilee Year that we are Pilgrims of Hope — people called to bring light and encouragement wherever we go. The Ranfurly gathering offered a beautiful opportunity to pause, share faith, and be renewed in this mission of hope.

It was a privilege to spend time with the lovely rural community of Ranfurly, whose warmth, faith, and sense of welcome truly reflect what it means to be a people of hope.

Secondary College Highlights 2025

The Dunedin Diocese's four Catholic secondary colleges—Trinity, St Kevin's, St Peter's, and Verdon—all experienced a successful 2025, demonstrating remarkable student achievement across academics, sports, and cultural life while strengthening their Catholic special character.



Verdon College, Invercargill

Verdon continued to thrive in 2025, driven by strong community and holistic student development:

- **Academic strength:** The college continues to see excellent achievement in NCEA at all levels.
- **Strong Community:** The college maintained a stable and healthy school roll of 739 students and was led by Head Students Charlie Telfer and Zoe Tait.
- **Outdoor and Service:** Verdon demonstrated a deep commitment to student growth outside the classroom by actively facilitating the William Pike Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Awards (Bronze, Silver, and Gold).
- **Māori Success:** Continued focus on providing opportunities for Māori students to achieve as Māori and fostering culture through events like the Haka and Waiata Competition.
- **Cultural Life:** Students participated enthusiastically in the annual School Production, the Bishop's Shield, and the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival.



Students awarded ILT Tertiary Scholarships



Trinity Catholic College, Dunedin

Trinity celebrated a year of national recognition and dual performing arts success:

- **Academic Excellence:** Numerous students achieved NCEA Certificate Endorsements with Excellence. Student Samuel Harfoot placed an impressive Fourth equal in the National Spelling Bee final.
- **Performing Arts:** The college staged two major productions (*"Back to the 80s"* and the pantomime *"The Christmas Switchmas"*).
- **Special Character in Action:** Seniors fundraised for an upcoming service trip to Vietnam, and the college maintained a strong environmental focus with the Envirogroup's Coastal Clean-Up.
- **Sports:** Highlighted by strong performances in Volleyball and Basketball, and former student Hermione Sparks being selected to represent New Zealand at the World Tap Dance Championships.



St Kevin's College, Oamaru

St Kevin's marked 2025 with outstanding leadership and record-breaking sporting results:

- **Top Honours:** Benjamin Jonathan was named Dux of the College. Head Students Louie Hose and Leilanitiare De La Ford both won Otago Daily Times Class Act Awards. The recent implementation of more Cambridge International Examination levels has also resulted in a number of notable successes.
- **Tournament Success:** The Girls 1st XI Football team achieved a historic 6th place finish, their highest ever at a national tournament. The Senior Boys Basketball team finished in the Top 5.

- **Diocesan Hosting:** The college proudly hosted and won the Bishop's Shield Competition, fostering faith-based rivalry and fellowship across the region.
- **Cultural:** Students put on a significant performance of the musical "Seussical," and Kapa Haka and Pasifika groups performed at Polyfest.



St Peter's College, Gore

St Peter's saw major institutional success and academic focus:

- **Institutional Milestone:** The college achieved the successful removal of the limited statutory intervention, signaling a strong dedication by staff and the new Principal, Mr. Kieran Udy.
- **Academic Strategy:** The school established ambitious targets of 90% NCEA Level 2 and Level 3 pass rates and is embedding structured literacy and mathematics in the Junior School.
- **Cultural Commitment:** The college is developing a comprehensive Te Ao Māori strategic plan and planning a designated physical space for Te Ao Māori.
- **Sporting Pride:** Students showed exceptional strength in rugby, with a large number selected for Southland Rugby Age Group squads, and notable success in the Bishop's Shield competition (Senior Prepared Speech winner Eilish Greene).



Bishop Michael celebrating the leavers mass at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Gore

St Bernadette's Library/ Breakout Space

A board funded relocatable building has been added to the St Bernadette's site to allow for an additional breakout space and library.



The module is Board owned and is an excellent example of property partnership.



The Principal, Debbie Waldron and Board have worked closely with our Property Manager, Craig Paterson, and the Ministry of Education to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

St Joseph's Oamaru with the stately Redcastle homestead in the background.

St Theresa's Toilet and Admin Upgrade

The congested administration area and aging toilet facilities are receiving a much needed makeover. We are hopeful this \$1,000,000 project will be completed by the new year.



St Joseph's Oamaru going to Tender

The tender documentation for the relocation of St Joseph's to the St Kevin's site is currently being finalised and will go to the market next month. This a significant step in the redevelopment process, and comes on the heels of the announcement of the joint Board receiving Ministerial approval. The architects vision of the project below will make a stunning addition to the existing College campus.

