



ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN COLLEGE

Out of Shadows into Truth



Cultivating Wisdom & Virtue

An independent, classical Catholic school opening
in Tarragindi in 2026

The **NEED**

In 2022, we launched an online survey asking parents and the community more broadly questions concerning education in Brisbane. The overwhelming response pointed to two key areas:

- 1. A growing desire for an alternative to the current offerings of the schooling system in Australia.**
- 2. A wide range of support amongst practicing Catholic families in Brisbane for a school offering a classical education.**

THE CLASSICAL EDUCATION MOVEMENT

In the United States, the classical education movement has swept across the country over the past decade. In 2025, the Institute of Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) had 283 member schools, with over 183 of these schools joining since 2021.

In Australia, classical, Liberal education is beginning to attract significant attention in the national educational conversation, with Catholic Schools NSW and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools both taking steps towards integrating the liberal arts/classical education into their schooling systems. There are also a number of new and intentionally classical Christian schools opening across the country.



The **ANSWER**

**St John Henry Newman College will answer this need, on
Australian soil, in our local Brisbane community.**

**Our school will be a classical, independent, co-educational school opening in
January 2026. With the initial intake of Years Prep to Three, the College will
become a full P-12 school with separate Primary and Secondary campuses in
the subsequent years.**

It will provide a classical education that immerses students in the Truth, Beauty, and Goodness of God and His world, forming them in wisdom and virtue to become faithful Catholics prepared to contribute to God's work in the world.

Classical education responds to a cultural and spiritual need by offering an alternative to the status quo, in step with the invaluable traditions of Western education. It seeks to form the whole person, through the best that has been thought and said throughout history, introducing young minds to the works and ideas that have made the civilisation we live in today.

*That is why we are committed to a classical Catholic education for
St John Henry Newman College.*



Who ARE WE?

St John Henry Newman College began as the initiative of a group of faithful Catholic families in Brisbane, and has since established a Board of Directors and founding Staff.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr Gabriel
James**



**Mr Nick
McAlpine**



**Ms Rowena
McNally**



**Mr Edmond
O'Donovan**



**Mr James
Power**



**Mr Stephen
Rodgers**



**Mr Rajiv
Saha**



**Mr Luke
Thomsen**



**Rev Dr Adam
Walk**

FOUNDING STAFF



**Mr Kenneth
Crowther**
Founding Principal

Kenneth Crowther has been an educator for over fifteen years. In the P-12 sector his roles have included Head of English, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Head of Secondary. He has also taught Philosophy, Literature, and Theatre in the tertiary sector. He holds a Bachelor of Education and Arts, a Master of Arts: Creative Writing, a Master of Arts: Research, and he is a PhD candidate at UniSQ specialising in early modern literary history. He and his wife Katelyn have been married for 13 years and are the parents of four young daughters.



**Mrs Sophia
Pinches**
Administration Officer



OUR SCHOOL CREST

Our crest was developed with the desire to connect to the tradition and heritage that Newman College inherits. Its elements all speak to the identity of the school.

The cross and three hearts are elements taken from Newman's own crest. **The cross** represents the centrality of Christ in the purpose of the school. **The three hearts** represent both the Holy Trinity and Newman's motto of 'heart speaks to heart', referring to the communion of God and man, and our nature as relational beings made in the image of God.

The book of Alpha and Omega represents the educational purpose of the school which is to introduce students to the best that has been thought and said, recognising God as the beginning and end of all learning.

The papal keys form the foundation of the crest, speaking to the school's submission to the teaching of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

The gold of the shield and keys comes from the gold on Newman's crest, and represent the sovereignty and glory of God. **The blue** represents the school's pursuit of truth and piety.

OUR SCHOOL PATRON

Saint John Henry Newman

The College is named after Saint John Henry Newman (1801–1890), an English Catholic Cardinal, Doctor of the Church, theologian and scholar. Newman had an important influence on education, founding the Literary and Historical Society while the rector at the Catholic University of Ireland, Dublin, and later publishing a volume of lectures entitled *The Idea of a University*. He was a supporter of the renewal of the vision of a liberal education, rather than an education aimed at purely 'useful skills':

"Good indeed means one thing, and useful means another; but I lay it down as a principle... that, though the useful is not always good, the good is always useful."



Our SCHOOL MOTTO



Ex umbris in veritatem Out of shadows into truth

Our motto derives from the inscription on Saint John Henry Newman's tombstone, which communicates two distinct yet connected metaphors central to our school identity.

Firstly, it speaks to the educational journey of the formation of a learner, and as such has classical connections to Plato's 'Allegory of The Cave' in his *Republic*, which tells the story of the journey of wisdom presented as an individual's escape from a cave in which shadows on a wall are presented as the totality of reality.

Progressing through the darkness and into the light of truth and reality is the difficult but necessary journey for all people. But this journey is not merely intellectual, as the second metaphor is found in moving from shadows into truth, symbolic of the journey of faith and the sanctification and growth in wisdom and virtue that is the gift of the grace of Christ.

"Newman College is a beacon of authentic Catholic education, offering a rigorous classical curriculum rooted in truth, beauty, and goodness. With a deep commitment to the Church's teachings, Newman forms students intellectually and spiritually, preparing them to think critically, live virtuously, and embrace their faith with confidence. It's more than a school—it's a place where young minds are shaped for wisdom and souls are formed for eternity."

Mr Matt Fradd
Founder & Host, *Pints with Aquinas*



The Classical **DIFFERENCE**

**A classical education asks a long-neglected question:
What is the purpose of education?**

Rather than education being about job-ready skills and career-oriented learning, a classical education sees wisdom and virtue as its purpose, seeking to shape the mind and soul of the student through the eternal realities of the True, the Good, and the Beautiful.

Shaped by the Trivium established in Ancient Greece, and codified in the Medieval Period, this pedagogical approach is rooted in **Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric**. It teaches the 'best that has been thought and said' through the great works of the Western Literary canon

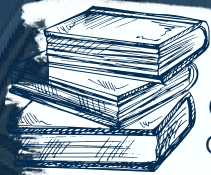


A classical education focuses upon the humane arts of **Literature, History, Philosophy, and Theology**, emphasising their value not only as skills, but as foundational knowledge that informs our understanding of what it means to be human (**anthropology**), how best to live our lives (**ethics**), the appreciation of beauty (**aesthetics**), and the joy of knowing God (**theology**).

From Aristotle and Homer to Aquinas and Austen, it is through the great minds and works that have shaped Western civilisation that a classical education teaches students to make sense of our modern world, and instills within them a passion to make it a better place.

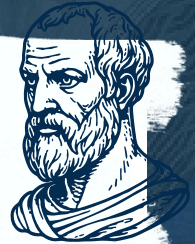
Our CURRICULUM

As a classical Catholic school in the Liberal Arts tradition, there are many distinctive elements of education at St John Henry Newman College:



GREAT BOOKS:

Our students will study, read and enjoy 'the best that has been thought and said,' as contained in the classic works from authors such as Beatrix Potter, Laura Ingalls Wilder, C.S. Lewis, Kenneth Grahame, J.R.R. Tolkien, Jane Austen, Dante Alighieri, John Milton, William Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, and Fyodor Dostoevsky.



PHILOSOPHY:

We also integrate philosophical thinking into our classes, gently at first, but gradually we introduce a historical overview of important thinkers from Socrates through to Pope St John Paul II. For example, Year Five students are introduced to Plato's Cave at the same time as reading C.S. Lewis' *The Silver Chair*, which shares many similar themes.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION:


Classical education, unlike recent contemporary trends, has always highlighted the importance of direct teacher-led instruction. Classrooms can be orderly and still enjoyable and engaging, and direct instruction teaching is a valuable approach to introducing new concepts and skills to students.



HISTORY:

As part of our Classical Studies programme, students will be introduced to the story of the world, forming a deep knowledge of the history of Western Civilisation, not just through memorisation of dates and events, but also by embodying their new knowledge in cultural events at the school such as medieval banquets.





We approach the Australian Curriculum through our lens and implement it based upon the classical and Catholic philosophy and theology of our school.

Integrating History

Where possible we integrate curriculum areas together, presenting students with a coherent harmony of understanding, rather than siloed fragmented subjects. We do this through a chronological approach to history in our Classical Studies subject, which is a school-based subject taught in addition to the Australian Curriculum.

Grammar, Logic & Rhetoric

We teach these liberal arts – sometimes called the Trivium – across all subjects. We also teach them as distinct skills and content, with a particular focus on teaching grammar skills like parsing sentences when students are young, then teaching logic and critical thinking as they get older, and always encouraging their rhetorical skills in public speaking.

Music, Poetry & Visual Art

While we prize all of the arts, we have a special focus on music, particularly choral music, visual art such as sketching and painting, and on poetry memorisation and recitation.

Religion

Religion is another school-based subject, meaning it is taught in addition to the AC requirements. We use religion time as catechesis to teach children about the Bible, and our Catholic faith and its history. Our Catholic faith is the foundation upon which our school is established, and religious instruction naturally permeates all aspect of school life.

Latin

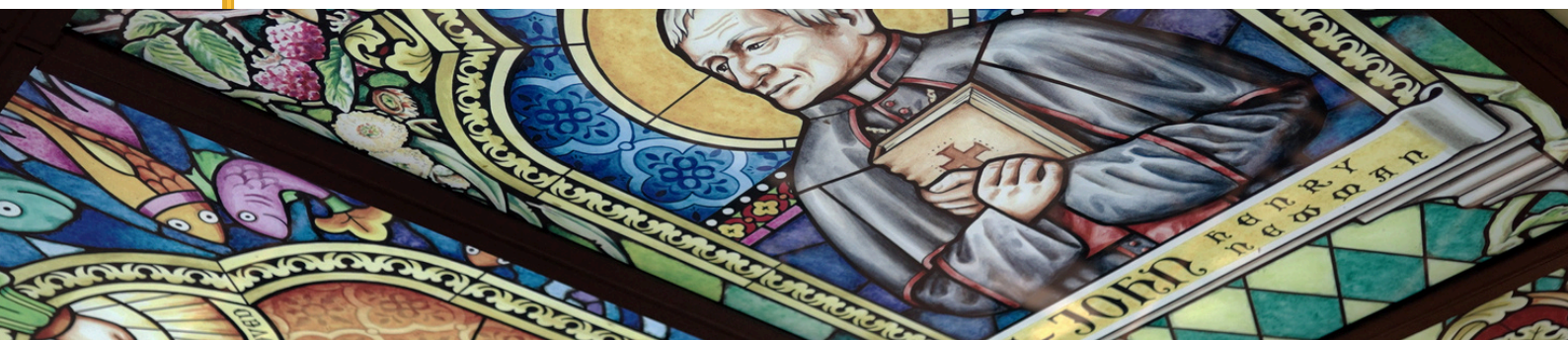
From Prep, students will learn Latin. Not as a 'dead' language, but as one which opens the door to the Romance languages, a language which teaches logic and grammar through its structure and gives the gift of reading in their original language some the great works of the Western canon.

Our TIMELINE



St John Henry Newman College is one of the first of its kind in Australia, and we have an ambitious vision for our future. With your prayers and God's grace, we are confident we will continue to achieve our milestones:

- 2023 ✓ Find a site for the Primary school and submit accreditation application.
- 2024 ✓ Achieve accreditation and establish Building fund with DGR/tax-deductible status.
Official School Launch & Open Enrolments for 2026 Years Prep to Three.
- 2025 ✓ June: Commence Stage One construction works.
- 2025 ✓ August: Hire the 2026 year level teachers.
- 2025 ○ December: Complete Stage One of site development and prepare teachers and staffing body for the first schooling year.
- 2026 ○ January: Commence schooling for Years Prep to Three. Begin Stage Two of site development.
- 2030 ○ Commence St John Henry Newman College Secondary School.



Artist render of St John Henry Newman College Primary School,
Prep classroom exterior

Our primary school campus is a taking shape, and we are delighted to share a glimpse of these plans with you. Building a school is an ambitious project, but we are confident we will achieve this, through God's grace and the generous support of our benefactors.



"I was delighted to learn of the imminent creation and opening of St John Henry Newman College. I know it will provide an embracing and nurturing primary schooling to that precious group of Catholic Australians – our youngsters."

*General the Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Ret)
Former Governor General of Australia*



Artist render of St John Henry Newman College Primary School, from Messines Ridge Rd

Our PATRONS



We are deeply grateful to our Patrons, who support and share our vision for St John Henry Newman College:

Mr Peter & Mrs Maria Bond

Peter is a financial planner with over twenty years experience. He is a director of Notre Dame Priory as well as a member of his parish finance committee. Maria is a Paediatrician with over a decade of experience as a Paediatric Consultant in both the public and private sectors. She has developed an in-depth understanding of the needs and challenges faced by school children, particularly in relation to their education.

Mr Robert & Mrs Alicia Falzon

Robert and Alicia Falzon have been married for over 40 years and have 4 children. Robert is the co-founder of menALIVE, and Alicia is a clinical family therapist, counsellor, and supervisor.

Professor Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE KM KSS

For some 60 years Ashley has been prominent in business, the public sector, the arts, science policy, education, and politics. He has extensive experience in vocational and tertiary education, and served as Deputy Chair of Brisbane Catholic Education for many years.

Mr James & Mrs Patrice McKay

James is Chairman of Walcot Capital, Perth Basin Energy and Comet Ridge. Patrice is a director of several companies including Perth Basin Energy and was previously a Director of NET Ministries Australia. James and Patrice are Co-Founders of Centenary Memorial Gardens, and they have three adult children.

Mr Karl Morris AO & Mrs Louise Morris

Karl is CEO and Managing Director of Ord Minnett. He is also Chairman of the Brisbane Broncos, Bravehearts Foundation and Patron of the Mary MacKillop Brisbane Catholic School Access Fund. Louise is passionate about helping disadvantaged families and supporting single mothers, in addition to her busy role as a mother of five children.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT NEWMAN COLLEGE?

Through your prayerful and material support of St John Henry Newman College, you can play an integral role in our School and its mission.

The vision of St John Henry Newman College can only come to fruition through the generosity of our supporters. As a registered charity with DGR status, we can receive tax-deductible donations through our online donation portal or by direct transfer to our bank account:

Account Name: St John Henry Newman College Ltd Building Fund

BSB: 064 786

Account Number: 1000 28698

Reference: *Your Name*

Donations over \$2 to St John Henry Newman College's Building Fund are tax-deductible in Australia.



Leave a Gift in Your Will

Would you consider leaving a bequest to St John Henry Newman College in your Will? A gift in your Will is a powerful investment, ensuring our School can continue to form virtuous, enquiring, and faithful young people for generations to come. If you are interested please contact Sophia at sophia.shogren@newmancollege.qld.edu.au or 0449 996 243 for a bequest brochure, or with any questions for you might have.

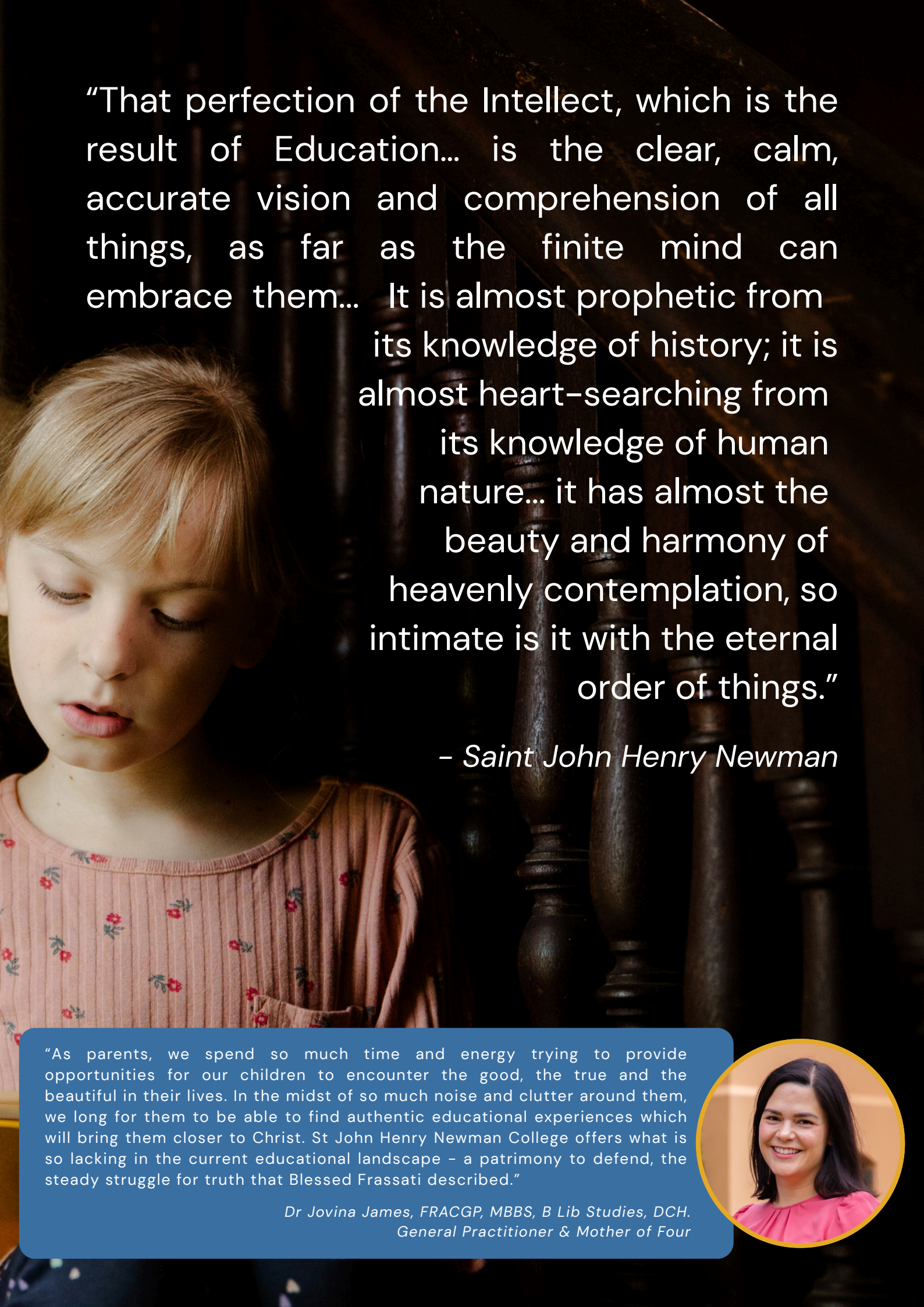
**Thank you for giving the invaluable gift of a faithful, Catholic, classical education
to future generations of students.**

WWW.NEWMANCOLLEGE.QLD.EDU.AU



"One of the fundamental duties that Christian parents take on at their wedding is the education of their children. The Church also teaches that parents are the first and primary educators of their children in the ways of the faith. Parents naturally seek the assistance of others to fulfil these important duties, and St John Henry Newman College will be a wonderful addition to the various educational choices that parents have."

Fr. Adrian Sharp
Moderator of the Brisbane Oratory in Formation



"That perfection of the Intellect, which is the result of Education... is the clear, calm, accurate vision and comprehension of all things, as far as the finite mind can embrace them... It is almost prophetic from its knowledge of history; it is almost heart-searching from its knowledge of human nature... it has almost the beauty and harmony of heavenly contemplation, so intimate is it with the eternal order of things."

– *Saint John Henry Newman*

"As parents, we spend so much time and energy trying to provide opportunities for our children to encounter the good, the true and the beautiful in their lives. In the midst of so much noise and clutter around them, we long for them to be able to find authentic educational experiences which will bring them closer to Christ. St John Henry Newman College offers what is so lacking in the current educational landscape – a patrimony to defend, the steady struggle for truth that Blessed Frassati described."

*Dr Jovina James, FRACGP, MBBS, B Lib Studies, DCH.
General Practitioner & Mother of Four*





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