Awakenings 2018

In the speech that opened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, Pope John XXIII referred to the Church’s mission to present the ancient teaching of Christ in a way that takes account of the situation in the modern world. The schools of our diocese share in this mission. They have a role to play in communicating the message of the gospel in the context of our own time.

Since 2005, we have had the Awakenings Religious Education Curriculum to assist school communities in this endeavour. We now have a revised version of Awakenings to guide those engaged in religious education in the years ahead.

The new Awakenings has merged a number of earlier strands into five strands that are woven throughout the curriculum. These combined strands are Scripture, Israel and Jesus; Christian Ethics – Personal and Social; God, Religion and Society; Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments; Church and Tradition.

The new Awakenings continues to promote an approach to teaching and learning that encourages dialogue with one another and with the world around us. It seeks to understand and present the Catholic faith in the context of our current society. In doing so, it continues to draw on the Catechism of the Catholic Church from 1992 and the General Directory for Catechesis from 1997. It also takes account of the stages of development of students across their years of schooling.

I am very grateful to those who first developed the Awakenings curriculum and those involved in preparing the revised version. The result is the fruit of much collaboration between school communities and the staff of the Catholic Education Office. I offer particular thanks to Fr Kevin Lenehan who has been a theological advisor from the beginning.

I am pleased to endorse the new Awakenings Religious Education Curriculum for use in Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools and Secondary Colleges throughout the Diocese of Ballarat.

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat

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