



11th December 2013

To the whole community of the Sandhurst Diocese,

WOW! What another amazing year this has been; with Stronger, World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, the Australian Catholic Youth Festival and so much more. Youth Ministry is thriving in our Diocese and around the country. It is so exciting to see young people passionate and enthusiastic about their faith. It's beautiful to see their hearts open and on fire for the love of God to be present in their lives.

I would just like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to all those who have supported youth ministry in the past and especially in the last two years whilst both Jackson and I have been in youth ministry.

I came into Youth Ministry with a passion for young people and bringing them closer to a loving God. I often thought that if I can inspire at least one person to be faith filled and enthusiastic about their faith, I would know that I had achieved the goal God had planned for me in bringing me into this position.

After much consideration and peace I am pleased and excited to announce that I will be stepping down as the Sandhurst Youth Ministry Worker to peruse studies. Although this is a tough decision, I have thoroughly loved my job; I have had an exceptional time working alongside the young people of our schools and parishes and I have been blessed with amazing opportunities.

So thank you all for opening up your parishes and schools and welcoming me into your communities. Thank you to family and friends who have welcomed me into their homes, it truly was a home away from home. Thank you for the support I have received in this role and the opportunities you have enabled me to be part of. I thank you for the friendships we have formed and sharing in the vision for youth ministry here in Sandhurst.

Special thanks goes to Jackson Saunders, Fr Rob Galea, the Stronger team, youth ministry reference group and so many more wonderful people for all you have done and your passion for youth ministry here in Sandhurst.

I would like to leave you with a prayer which particularly resonates with me and I hope too that this will be a prayer that continues to touch the hearts of others.

Lord Jesus,

I thank You for my life and for all the good qualities You have gifted me with. I thank You for friendships, family life and for so many opportunities to grow.

I thank You for inviting me to walk closely with You and to continue to proclaim and deepen what You stand for; love, justice and peace.

Thank You for living with me through your Holy Spirit and encouraging, loving, forgiving, healing and empowering me.

Touch my heart and renew me with Your presence. Fill me with joy. Continue to mould and nurture me, so that I will never be afraid to respond to the needs of others and Your world, and turn to You in times of difficulty and distress.

I trust You with my past life, my present situation and with my future.

Today I decide again to accept You and You alone as my God.

I truly desire to know You better.

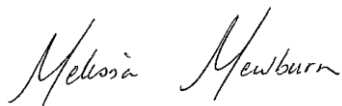
Amen.

Bishop Joe Grech

I pray that you will continue to live out your faith with enthusiasm, trust the Lord completely with His future plans for your life and continue to live as the disciples of Jesus Christ in your communities.

May God bless you abundantly in this season of Christmas. May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the days ahead.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Mewburn". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Melissa Mewburn

Sandhurst Youth Ministry