

## **PARISH PRIEST STUDENT REFERENCES**

Parents who wish to make an application for their children to complete their secondary education at Assumption College or another Catholic College often request a reference from myself as parish priest. In order to write a reference, the applicant and family must be well known to myself in order to write such a testimonial. I am attesting to the Catholicity of the applicant, i.e., the practice of their faith by attendance at Mass on Sundays, regular reception of the sacraments and general demeanor. Parents must understand that the creditability of the writer of the reference is paramount in order for the reference to be of value.

Although I walk through the College daily, I can only attest to a child's practice of their faith by what I see in church both by parents and the child themselves. This is what Assumption College wishes to know. School reports and academic standards are the responsibility of the College to provide.

As parish priest, both the Principal and myself have the responsibility for the overall maintenance and good governance of the College. Our College ranges from Prep to Year 10 and it is most important to maintain our students in Years 7-10. I have that responsibility both to the parish and college families. We provide an excellent education for our students in preparation for Years 11-12 at Assumption College and other colleges. I will be happy to discuss the writing of a reference with parents, however with my responsibility to St. Mary's College I cannot promise that a reference will be written other than in exceptional circumstances.

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms