



## Media Release

**Subject: Official Blessing and Opening of the Marist Auditorium**

**Date: 1 April 2016**

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Newman College's new \$12 million state-of-the-art Auditorium was officially opened on Friday 1 April at a special Blessing Ceremony attended by over 500 guests.

Addressing the audience Principal John Finneran said, "This state-of-the-art building will not only benefit our current students but is also a gift to the future generations of this College. In order to deliver the best in teaching and learning, we are always seeking to evolve our learning spaces."

The building is acoustically designed to bring out the best in any musical or other live performance or event. With a capacity for seating 680 people it faces a large and flexible stage with an orchestra pit. The Marist Auditorium offers opportunities for a wide range of uses in musical and theatrical performance as well as for rehearsals, exams, graduations, conferences, seminars and other presentations.

"Now our students have the opportunity to perform and learn in a professional environment, which will ultimately benefit them in their future endeavours." Mr Finneran said. "Significantly, the addition of the Marist Auditorium will strengthen the College's partnership with the wider community. Its multipurpose function will allow community groups and other schools to access the space and so promote the College's commitment to Community Engagement."

During his address, Mr Finneran thanked the College Community for its support and funding of the building.

Newman College was honoured to be joined by Br Michael Green FMS, National Director Marist Schools Australia and The Most Reverend Gerard Holohan, Bishop of Bunbury, who opened and blessed the Marist Auditorium. Also in attendance were City of Stirling Councillor Stephanie Proud, Mayor of Cambridge Keri Shannon and representative staff and students of the College.

Planning for the Marist Auditorium began in 2014, with the construction taking place throughout 2015 and 2016.

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