



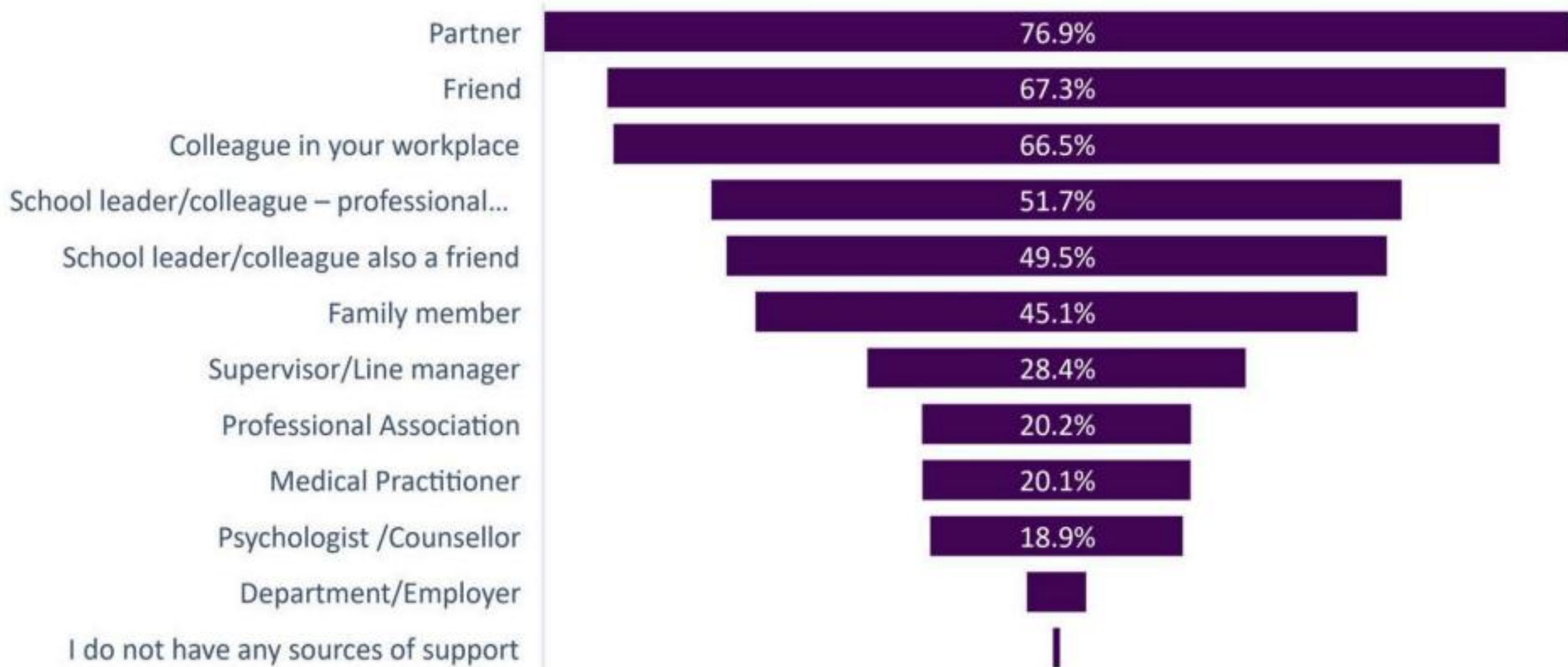
**Diocese of Toowoomba  
Catholic Schools**

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**Belief in a better world**

**2026 QCPPA  
conference**

## Sources of Support (%)



■ Percentage selected

# Teachers hate their job

The number walking away from classroom doubles in two years

EXCLUSIVE  
Inda Silmalis

Public school teachers are quitting classrooms in record numbers, with state government figures showing resignations to have more than doubled since 2019.

The West Australian  
Saturday, July 19, 2025

# It's not about

Teachers' missive to parents about respect

METHANY HIATT

The teachers' union has kicked off a new campaign calling on parents to show respect for teachers in public schools — and to consider whether their own behavior could be contributing to the problem.

STATE IN CRISIS AS NUMBER OF SCHOOL VACANCIES SOARS

# Teachers in stampede for the exit

AUL GARVEY

Western Australia is staring down the barrel of an unprecedented teacher shortage amid what the state's Education Minister says is a nationwide challenge for schools. WA schoolteachers have reported surging levels of stress and anxiety about their jobs, a survey revealed to The Australian by the SSTA.

We've got a mad approach with the individual education planning (and) professional learning demands on teachers. It's all just wrapped up and added to workload. The union's survey suggests the resignation figures may continue to worsen. It found that 86 per cent of teachers, 63 per cent of principals and 73 per cent of deputies and heads of department said there were teacher shortages at their school, which had in turn hurt staff morale and increased



# Teachers have a say

Australia's Best Teachers nominees tell us why they chose a career with the great responsibility of shaping the lives of their students

Michael Henderson, Coomer Anglican College, Upper Coonara, Queensland  
"I am inspired by my own experience of when I was at school and dipping it on its head. I struggled academically at school and felt like I was just left alone to struggle through my years of school. I don't see that in any of my students. My teaching philosophy is simple: Make learning fun and inclusive. If I can tap into a child's excitement for learning and wanting to come to school, then the rest will fall into place. I see children to say that they want to come to school every day just because they moved out of something stressful. Nowhere else."

# Scale of teacher shortage crisis in schools revealed

Teachers' union reveals a crisis in schools as it reveals the scale of the shortage. The union says that the shortage is not just in rural areas but is also occurring in urban areas. The union is calling for the government to take action to address the shortage.

# Mental health can be a source of violence

Developing guidelines that recognise the creation of mechanisms to manage safety and security issues in schools. NSW's mental health services are being restructured, which has raised concerns about the impact on schools. The union is calling for the government to take action to address the shortage.

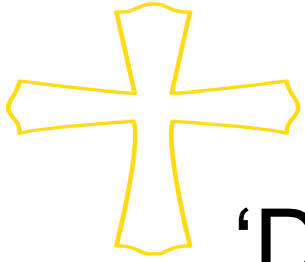


## Disruptors to education 2026+



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- Artificial intelligence and technological change
- Teacher and leader burnout
- Attracting and retaining the next generation of teachers and leaders
- Achieving educational reform in a risk adverse culture
- Search for a spiritual orientation to living beyond formal religion

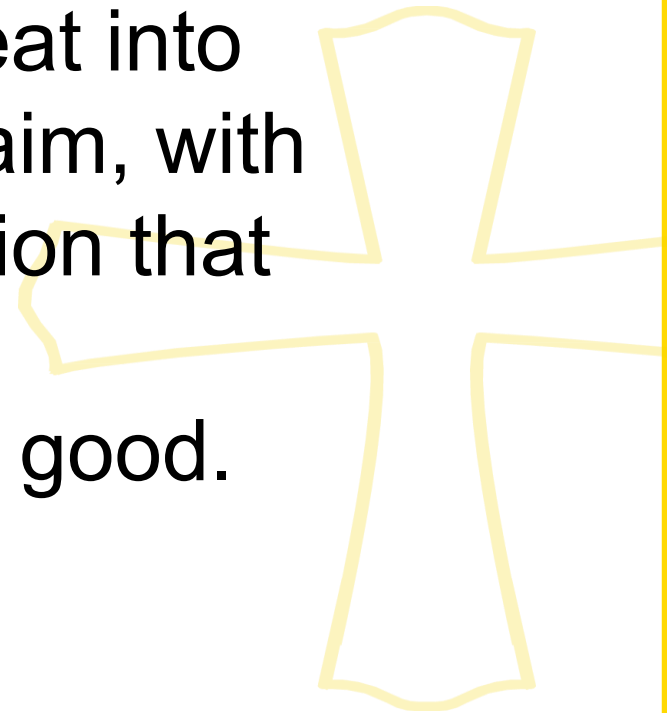


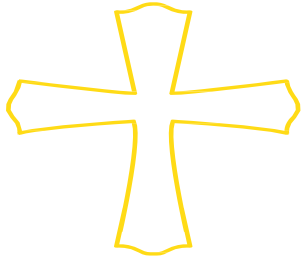
## ‘Drawing new maps of hope’

...Catholic education is not called to retreat into protection and safety. It is called to proclaim, with clarity and confidence, a vision of education that seeks to form people capable of fidelity, responsibility and service to the common good.



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# BREAKING BOUNDARIES FOR TOMORROW

2026 Conference, Toowoomba  
Wed 29 April to Fri 1 May

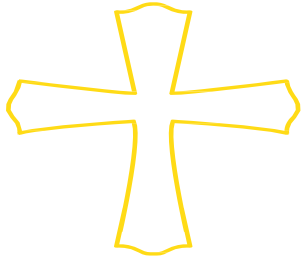


**Belief in a better world**



'The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion.'

As our challenge is new so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our country.'

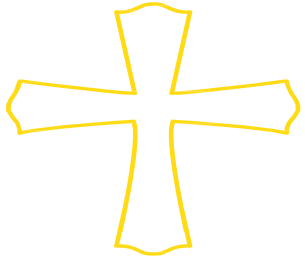


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...there are boundaries that all of us are enthralled by which we simply take for granted as the natural order of things, the way things are or the way things have to be.

...many of our boundaries have been formed not to meet current circumstances but to cope with the circumstances from a previous time.

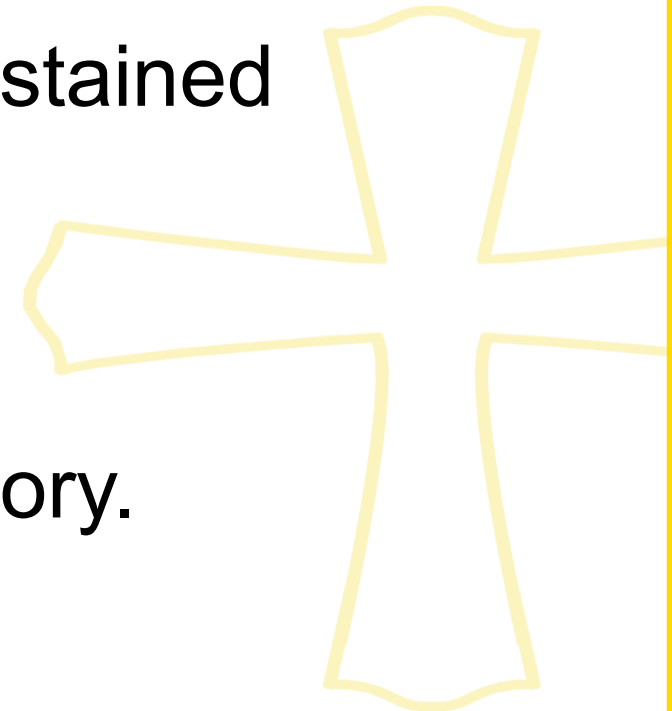
...our minds are still hypnotised by them and we have to disenthral ourselves of some of them.



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...boundaries are propped-up and sustained  
by stories.

...to disenthral ourselves of these  
boundaries we have to tell a better story.



## Queensland Bishops



### The mission of Catholic education in Queensland

Catholic schools, together with parents and clergy, educate students to live a life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In a Catholic school, students learn about and experience the Catholic faith, its history, teachings, rituals and culture. A Catholic education is an invitation to experience the world with a Catholic heart informed by a Biblical view of the human person. It is a privileged way of learning what it means to be a human being, looking to Jesus crucified and risen as the one in whom we see what it is to be fully human.

Inspired by the challenge to advance the mission of Jesus Christ through the ministry of education, Catholic schools are places of hope and promise for students and play a vital role in promoting their spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, social, emotional development and negotiating a purposeful life through the maze of contemporary culture. Drawing on the inspiration of the many founding stories within Catholic schools, our distinctive story privileges the Gospel message and looks for points of encounter and dialogue with young people in their search for the fullness of life.

Catholic schools now minister in a society where belief in God and affiliation with Churches is not what it was. Catholic schools have always welcomed those of other faiths and those with no particular religious beliefs. This is increasingly so. In doing this they participate in the Church's mission to evangelise, bringing the good news of Jesus to those who have not heard it and inviting them to join in promoting the reign of God for a compassionate, peaceful and hope-filled world.

Catholic schools are called to be

1. **welcoming and inclusive communities** where human dignity is respected and celebrated, and a spirit of welcome extended to diverse student groups and highly qualified, professional staff irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or physical ability. We witness to Christ's mission through an inclusive embrace of all staff and students.
2. **places of faith and reason** where the Gospel message and scholarship act together to liberate the human spirit and stimulate life-long learning in a safe space of intellectual openness and respect. A Catholic education empowers student leadership and furthers their spiritual, intellectual and social well-being through encounter and dialogue.
3. **places of prayer, ritual and liturgy** which enable students to see and experience the world as the theatre of God's grace. Prayer, ritual and liturgical experiences enrich students' understanding and interpretation of human life from a religious perspective and instil a desire to grow more fully into who they are called to be.
4. **places of care and attention to the needs of others** where students learn that true meaning in life comes from serving others, especially the poorest and the least, and that to lead means to serve.

We the Bishops of Queensland are called to be teachers, which is why we value Catholic schools so highly. We thank all those engaged in the evangelising mission of Catholic schools for their personal and professional dedication. We welcome the students and families who enrol in our schools and invite them to join with us in the great mission of educating for a better world.

+ Shane Mackinlay

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay

Joe Caddy

Most Rev Joseph Caddy

+ Timothy Harris

Most Rev Timothy Harris

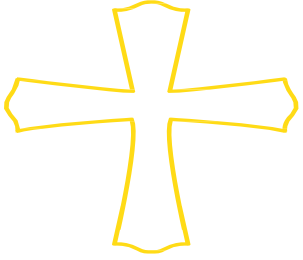
+ Ken Howell

Most Rev Ken Howell

+ Michael McCarthy

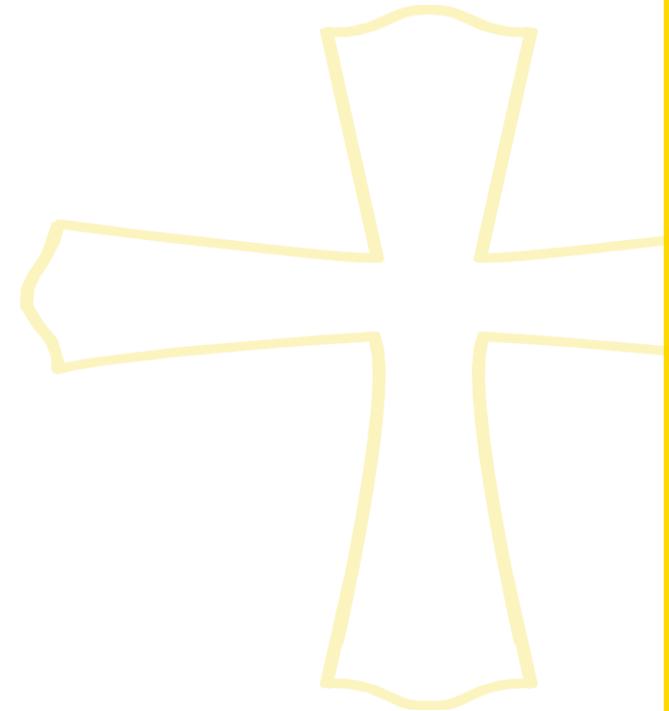
Most Rev Michael McCarthy

September 2025



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...inadequate and overwhelmed



**Belief in a better world**



# Conversations in the Spirit



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What current boundary—structural, cultural, or personal—is limiting my leadership, my team, or my school community from reaching its full potential?

What ‘better story’ about who I am becoming as a leader or school could help me move beyond that boundary and into a stronger future position?



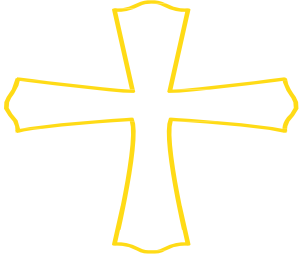


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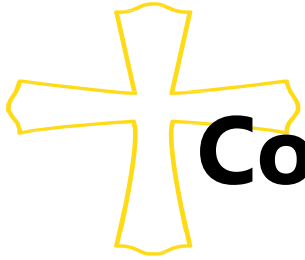


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# **Conversations in the Spirit**



**Belief in a better world**



# Conversation in the spirit



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From my reflection, this is my response to question/topic...



As I listened to each person's response, what did I hear us saying as a group?

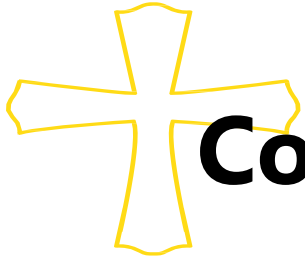


What is being asked of me through this encounter?



What will this require of me now?





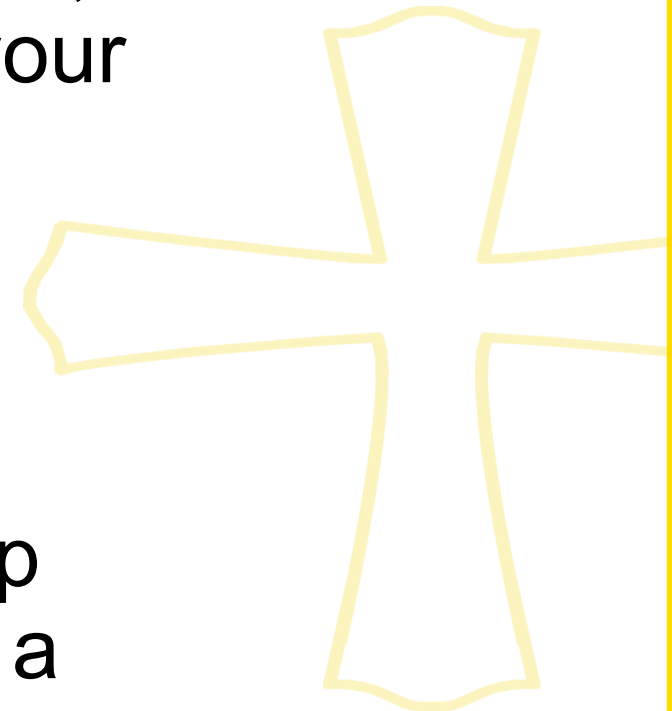
# Conversations in the Spirit

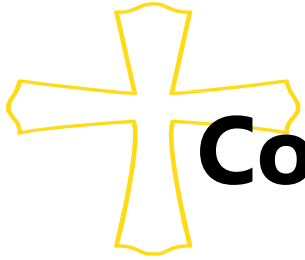


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# Conversations in the Spirit



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Now is not the time for retreat.

What the Church and the world need now is leaders of depth and courage.

Leaders who walk towards the Cross not away from it.

Leaders who break boundaries not with force but with integrity and quiet, grounded, humble presence.

This isn't the easier road. But it is the road Christ walked. And it's the only road that leads to resurrection.

**Belief in a better world**



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**Belief in a better world**

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