Date: 4 August 2016

Subject: World Youth Day Pilgrimage of Mercy – Rockhampton

To coincide with the World Youth Day celebrations in Poland and as part of Catholic Education Week around 70 Year 11 and 12 students from Colleges across the diocese gathered at The Cathedral College in Rockhampton on the weekend of 29 – 31 July.

The weekend was an opportunity for the students to hear from and experience the faith sharing of various presenters as well as exploring their own faith within the context of pilgrimage and mercy.

Bishop Michael McCarthy along with priests from the diocese, Stefanie Lloyd (facilitator), the Bundaberg NET Team, Seminarians, (Emme Kelemente, Nathan Webb, Jack Ho, and our own Ashwin Acharya), staff from Colleges, staff from the Catholic Education Office and Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, the 2016 Young Australians of the Year and cofounders of Orange Sky Laundry who were the key note speakers on Saturday Night, gathered with the students for a faith filled and enjoyable weekend.

With a focus on linking to both the Year of Mercy and the celebrations in Poland, the students were given the opportunity to reflect on their own faith and encouraged to find time both as individuals and in small groups to share what their faith and experiences of mercy meant for them.

The feedback from students sums up their appreciation of the time together where they have noted what they enjoyed about the weekend; listening to people’s faith stories, the experience of reconciliation and Taize Prayer, Mass at the Cathedral, the opportunity to mix with other likeminded teenagers, the Orange Sky Laundry presentation was inspirational, left me thinking how as an individual I can make a difference.

All agreed that they had a wonderful time and the Year 11s are all saying that they will come again next year!