**MESSAGE TO SHARE WITH YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

**You’re invited to create a message of HOPE to share with our community!**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many to experience feelings of isolation and despair as our everyday lives change on a daily basis. In the first lockdown, community initiatives such as painting rainbows and teddy bears in windows helped develop a sense of connection and sparked joy for many. However, months on, and in the face of ongoing restrictions, such tangible symbols of hope have begun to diminish.

This week, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle encourages individuals and families to renew their sense of HOPE.

NAME OF SCHOOL is inviting families to create a poster with the word HOPE and place it in your front yard or front window. In doing so, you will be taking part in an initiative that’s happening in communities across the Diocese that includes more than 19,000 students. It’s also a fun activity to do with your children while learning from home and one that we hope will inspire many in the community as they go about their exercise.

Please know that this request is very much invitational, and by no means an expectation.

If you do wish to take part, follow these simple steps:

1. Make a poster with the word **HOPE**. Lots of colour, particularly the use of the colour yellow (as it is the colour of hope) is strongly encouraged.
2. Place the poster in your front window/ front yard by Friday 20 August.
3. If you are happy for your child’s photo to be published in an online gallery which showcases children from across the region with their signs of HOPE, please email

mediainbox@mn.catholic.org.au and include;

* A copy of the photo
* Your child’s name (first name only will be published)
* The school your child attends including the location e.g. St Joseph’s Primary School, Taree
* **Due by Friday 20 August**

The gallery will be online from Friday 20 August and available for viewing at [www.mnnews.today](http://www.mnnews.today)

Content will also be shared on the Catholic Schools Office Facebook page [www.facebook.com/mncatholicschools](http://www.facebook.com/mncatholicschools) and Instagram page [www.instagram.com/mncatholicschools](http://www.instagram.com/mncatholicschools)