

## Opening of MacKillop Centre at St Francis Xavier's College 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011



A bright sunshine greeted us as we joined the staff , students and visitors to St Francis Xavier's for the blessing and opening of their new MacKillop Learning Centre for Students with Special Needs.

**Students, Jock and Olivia** welcomed the assembly and spoke of some of the features of the new centre.



**Brother Hubert** added his word of welcome and spoke of the dedicated service of the staff and the delight that was felt by all at the provision of such a facility.

Bishop Michael Malone recalled the proud history of the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in providing opportunities for students with disabilities. He was joined by Mr Ray Collins from the Catholic Schools Office who emphasized the possibilities that now exist for students with special needs to perform to their abilities from kindergarten to Yr 12. He acknowledged the role

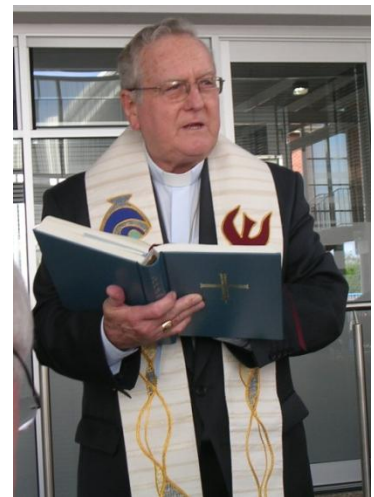
parents had played in urging that provision such at this Centre be made.



Bishop Michael then blessed the Centre with the assistance of Clare, one of the students who is very proud of her Centre.

The happy occasion was marked by the cutting of a special cake by two students and a welcome morning tea for all.

Visitors were then shown round the rooms by the students who were proud of the new Smart Board and the kitchen where they are able to learn all the skills necessary to make meals for themselves.





**Students explain some of the advantages the new facilities offer them.**



**Sr Anne receives a beautiful bouquet of flowers from grateful students.**



**Jock and Andrew are delighted to show Sisters Maureen Salmon, Patricia Egan and Ruth Long some of the features of their new rooms.**



**The cutting of the cake was a joyful moment for these students.**

**Sr Anne Rabbitt shows off the multi-purpose Cooker that enables children to experience the delights of culinary expression.**



**This picture of St Mary of the Cross given by Sr Anne is a special feature in the main room.**

