



The Fr John Wall Community Library

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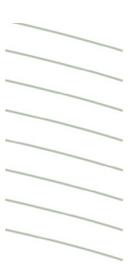
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The Fr John Wall Community Library, operating within Catholic Education Tasmania and the Archdiocese of Hobart, stands as a pivotal resource hub supporting 38 schools and 27 parishes across the state of Tasmania. The library boasts a diverse collection of over 15,000 physical items and extensive digital resources. The library has evolved from a historic Catholic library initiated by Tasmania's first Catholic Bishop (Bishop Willson) in the 1840s.

From Fr John Wallis' travelling 'caravan' collection in the 1960s to its transition to the Tasmania Pastoral Resource Centre (TPRC) from 1986, the library has had many iterations. The library's transformation into the Fr John

Wall Community Library was spurred by a significant bequest from Fr John William Wall in 2004 and marked the integration of his rare book collection and artworks with the retired St John Fisher College university library (alongside a number of other books donated by priests and Archbishops of the Diocese).



This esteemed repository operates under Catholic Education's aegis, welcoming Tasmanian adult residents, irrespective of religious affiliation, to benefit from its resources free of charge. The library's commitment to cater to the faith-based educational needs of Catholic schools and parishes encompasses an 80% focus on Theological and Religious Education resources, complemented by a 20% allocation for general curriculum materials.

Utilising the Infiniti Library Management system, the library organises its extensive collection across various genres, supplemented by 500+ e-books, digital resources, and a wide range of online databases and subscriptions. Beyond its expansive collection, the library offers an array of services ranging from online and in-person research assistance to postal services across Tasmania. Furthermore, it hosts story times for young learners, conducts rare book collection tours, and facilitates library bookings for staff and community groups.

Additionally, the Fr John Wall Community Library plays a pivotal role in supporting literacy initiatives such as the Literate Learners for Life and Insight programs, rooted in the Science of Reading and Learning. Its role extends to supporting the Tasmanian Catholic School libraries, fostering network opportunities, and hosting the St Thomas Aquinas Teaching School Institute.

Enhancing general community and clerical engagement is challenging and remains a focal point, alongside the ongoing care and preservation of the rare book collection. Despite these challenges, the

library continues to stand as an invaluable faith resource hub, advocating literacy, fostering educational growth, and serving as a pillar of knowledge for Tasmania's Catholic Education system.



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The library is currently under the direction of Librarian Anita Gill, who holds Library and Information Management qualifications and nearly 20 years' experience in Catholic libraries. As well as running the library and its services, Anita supports the online development, resourcing, and publication of the Tasmanian Catholic Education Curriculum in conjunction with the Catholic Identity & Evangelisation team at Catholic Education Tasmania.