On Thursday the 23rd May, 350 students across our Diocese braved cold and dreary conditions to race in the Diocesan Secondary Cross Country held at Wayne Richards Park, Port Macquarie.

While the weather threatened all day we managed to have all divisions run free of rain except the 12 year age group. The course involved hills, narrow passage ways and the open expanse of the AFL Oval.

The students are to be congratulated on their positive attitude to the day and commended on their outstanding athleticism. It was a pleasure to be involved with so many polite and well-mannered students that clearly showed great respect and sportsmanship toward their fellow athletes.

Thank you Chris Delaney for designing the course and to the following people who so willing pitched in when conditions proved helped and made sure the day ran smoothly;

- Shannon Matheson and Alex Gillman (Sport trainees) especially when it came time to pack down in testing conditions
- Jo Pilgrim, Tracy Bewicke, Sharon Gil-Andrews, Kate Pensini, Jodie Carroll for starting and recording the races
- Maxine Stone and her band of helpers in the canteen
- Trevor for showing great care with our students (St John’s Ambulance)
- The schools that provided extra assistance at recording
- The staff at St Paul’s Port Macquarie for assisting in setting up the track

Erin Gallagher

*And on behalf of all competitors, officials, team managers and others, a sincere thank you and well done to Erin Gallagher for her outstanding job and hard work as carnival convener!*