



In recognition on the Annunciation that occurred over the school holidays.

Hail, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you,
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
Amen

Dear Parents and Members of our School Community

One of the intriguing things about being a Christian is the sense of mystery that is associated with some of our beliefs. The Annunciation is one such event, because it deals with the human nature of Jesus. We believe that Jesus is both God and human and that He was born of an earthly mother; He was conceived in a unique way, but conceived, nevertheless.

The events of His conception went something like this. God needed a mother for God's Son, someone to bear the Son of God. Mary is the chosen one. She is engaged to Joseph of the house of David. God intervenes in Joseph and Mary's relationship, interrupts the usual sequence of the steps of marriage and first child. Mary is just a girl who has precious little experience of men or the world or angels. Yet, here is the Archangel Gabriel waiting expectantly for a response from a perplexed young woman: would she be the Mother of God? Mary's first response is, "How can this be?" She wants to know whose idea was this? How is it exactly going to happen? Mary is trying to make sense out of what makes no sense, that God decided to surrender to flesh and blood but needed her help, needed her to surrender as well to carry out the plan.

As we wonder about Mary's response to God's proposal, we might ponder our own life and the fact that often the choices of life seem to choose us before we get to choose for ourselves. Our five- and ten-year plans are often interrupted by life's own plans for us: unexpected illness, the economy misbehaving, our parents growing older and needing our assistance, our children behaving inappropriately, new career opportunities, natural disasters. Sometimes wonderful things happen, and sometimes terrible things happen, but seldom do we know ahead of time what will happen.

When life throws us the unexpected, we have a choice as to how we deal with it. We can resist with all our might and anger and no compromise at any cost and resentment and "why me" attitude or we can "do an oyster": we can accept the piece of "grit" and turn it into a pearl. After some hesitation and the seeking of more information from Gabriel, Mary's response was, "yes". This prompted Gabriel to say, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest on you. For this reason, the holy child will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35.

"Mary's 'yes' reflects Christ's own 'yes' when He entered the world. By the meeting of these two 'yesses', God was able to take on a human face. This is why the Annunciation is not only a Mary feast day but a Christ feast day as well, because it celebrates a central mystery of Christ: His Incarnation."
Adapted. Pope Benedict xvi.

When Mary answered “yes”, it did not mean she did so without fear; it simply meant that Mary was not going to allow fear to prevent her from making an important decision. A great example for us.

Welcome back to term two. It has been wonderful to see everyone. Thank you to staff and parents for all their efforts in setting up and attending parent teacher interviews.

Good luck to our First Eucharist Candidates who begin their preparation this weekend with their Commitment Mass at Notre Dame Church on Saturday night.

Until next term
God Bless



Darren McDonald
Principal



Monday 22 April – Interschool Cricket Carnival
Tuesday 23 April – 9am Whole School Mass
Thursday 25 April – ANZAC DAY – NO SCHOOL – PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Friday 26 April – 11:30am Yr5 ANZAC day Memorial Service
Friday 26 April – 9am P&F Meeting

Dates for the Calendar for this term – student free days and Public Holidays:

Thursday April 25 - ANZAC Day
Friday May 24 - Pupil Free Day
Monday June 3 - WA Day
Monday June 4 - Pupil Free Day



Kindergarten 2025 Enrolments are now OPEN.

If your child was born between 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 or 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, they are eligible to commence our 4-year-old Kindergarten program in 2025.

If you have not submitted your Application for Enrolment yet – especially for our sibling families, please contact the office via email – admin@smg.wa.edu.au to ask for an Enrolment Pack to be sent to you. Places are filling rapidly.

Notre Dame Parish News

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope all staff and students had a well-deserved break and are looking forward to the Term ahead.

Bible Studies

Each Tuesday evening commencing at 6.00 pm in the Parish Centre.

RCIA

Each Tuesday evening commencing at 7.15 pm in the Parish Centre.

Safeguarding Induction Training Online Course

All Church workers are invited to attend an *online safeguarding induction*. A Church worker is anyone in the Parish in any role – paid or voluntary.

The session will cover the Safeguarding policies and procedures, the importance of Safeguarding in the Parish, and the role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer. To register, please phone Ingka on 9221 7762 or visit www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au

Next online sessions: Thursday 18 April at 10.00 am, Tuesday 23 April at 7.00 pm, and Tuesday 30 April at 2.00 pm.

Working with Children Card

A current WW Children Card is required by all volunteers in the Ministries at the Church. Please check the expiry date on the card. A renewal can be made online or forms are available at the Parish Office. For further information, please contact Leonie Blake at the Parish Office on 9277 4094.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes

Boxes and envelopes can be returned and placed in a container at the Wright Street entrance of the Church. A tax receipt can be provided. The theme for this year is, *For all Future Generations*.

St John of God Hospital Subiaco

Volunteers are required for Extraordinary Minister of Communion every 2 – 3 hours when required. For further information please see the Church Notice Board or contact the Parish Office on 9277 4094.

Pilgrim Statues

If you wish to have one of 'Our Lady's' statues visit your home for a week, please contact Sandra Robinson on 9277 2872 or 0405 117 138.

New Members

If you are interested in joining the Notre Dame Parish Social Committee, please contact Leonie Blake at the Parish Office on 9277 4094.

Parish Youth Group

The Group will meet on the 4th Friday of every month commencing on 24 May 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre. Please contact Leonie Blake at the Parish Office on 9277 4094.

Dr George Sekulla JP
Chairman
Notre Dame Parish Council



**St Maria
Goretti's**
Catholic School
To nurture and educate

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Further information about St Maria Goretti's Catholic School

Information can also be found on the school website www.smg.wa.edu.au

Or the school Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/smgcschool>

Or the school Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/smgcschool>