



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

01 DECEMBER 2017

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FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



St Mary's Christmas card. Artist - Tyla (Form III)

This year has offered us many new insights as individuals and as a school. Now we have time to reflect on this learning and use it to enhance the experience at St Mary's School and further develop as a place of belonging. We wish the Form V girls and a number of other girls who leave St Marys, well as they embrace new environments. To the staff who leave, Ms Ravenscroft, Mr Strydom, Mr Parenzee, Mrs Stapelberg, Mrs Oosthuizen, Mrs Whitfield and Mr Watt, we thank them for their contribution to our school and we wish them well.

Our lives are busy during the academic year and we have many demands placed on us but it is rewarding to look back over the year and assess what we have achieved as pupils, teachers and the school.

Dr Ela Manga addressed parents at a recent Muse Morning and I want to use her words to reflect on our busy lives before we breathe out and embrace a time of rest:

LOVE.COMMUNITY.INTEGRITY

"With little time for rest, I realised that sometimes our deepest state of rest can be experienced in the midst of doing something we love. We can keep going when we choose to surround ourselves with the people who love and support us. We replenish our energy when we shift our perspective from fear to gratitude, when we can respond to life with an open heart and will, when we can listen deeply to the wisdom of our bodies as part of nature, when we can laugh at ourselves, celebrate our humanity and honour our divinity."

My Christmas wish for you is: as we celebrate God's birth into our world as Christ this Christmas, may God inspire us to gaze with the eyes of children at the wonder of God's presence in each other and in all creation. A blessed Christmas to you all.

DEANNE KING
HEAD OF SCHOOL

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"*

- Luke 2:8-14

As we begin Advent – the season in which we prepare our hearts to receive the Christ-child anew at Christmas – this Advent Sunday (3 December), we cast our minds over the year that has passed since last Christmas. Much has taken place, both in the life of the school, the individual girls and staff members and their families, as well as the wider community that is our country. Some events we celebrated; others have caused us concern.

Each time I read the story of Christ's birth, I am struck by how unexpected so much of the story is. A child – the Saviour of the

world born as a helpless babe – is born and placed in an animals' feeding trough. The angel announces Christ's birth not to religious leaders or political rulers, but to shepherds. The shepherds, all too aware that the dark of the night brought with it the threat of predators and thieves, must have had the fright of their lives upon seeing an angel. God takes us all by surprise.

Christmas is God's reminder to us that because of that first Christmas, God is with us in unexpected ways: God is in all. In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

We are in God's presence, therefore, as we consider the happenings of the year gone by. With God, let us reflect: how has every one of these events helped prepare us to see Christ anew in each other? How has God worked within us, through what has been, to prepare us to receive what Christ has still to do through us and in us?

To all in our St Mary's School community, I wish you and those you love a blessed Advent, and a wonderful Christmas.

REVD CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT


 St Mary's School
 Waverley
 Founded 1898

Christ Be Our Light
 A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
 St Mary's School
 The Edge
 Monday 4 December 2017
 17h30 and 19h00
 Reserved complimentary tickets can be collected at
 the Junior and Senior School receptions
 from Monday 27 November