

## **Principal's Report – Annual Community Meeting**

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome everyone for our Annual Community Meeting and thank you for joining us this evening. St Joseph's School is a vibrant, faith-filled community where our students remain at the heart of everything we do. We are deeply committed to delivering a quality Catholic education that nurtures the whole child—spiritually, academically, and socially.

At St. Joseph's, we ensure that every family can benefit from the rich opportunities our school provides. Students are given many opportunities to engage in a broad curriculum that includes The Arts, Science and Technology, You Can Do It, Auslan, and targeted learning programs designed to support individual growth and individual learning needs.. At St Joseph's, our goal is to create an environment where every child feels valued, inspired, and empowered to continue their learning journey and reach their full potential.

With accessible school fees and a strong focus on inclusivity, St Joseph's continues to provide an environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. This commitment reflects our mission to deliver excellence in education while remaining grounded in the values of faith, service, and community.

We are proud to continue our strong, collaborative partnerships with schools across the community of the Yilgarn. This year, our students have actively participated in a range of shared initiatives that celebrate learning, culture, and community spirit. These included engaging Literacy and Numeracy events, exciting sporting opportunities such as Cross Country and Athletics, and a vibrant NAIDOC Day that honoured and celebrated First Nations culture. In addition, our Leadership Day for upper primary students provided an inspiring platform for developing confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. These joint experiences not only enrich student learning but also strengthen the bonds within our wider educational community.

### **Catholic Identity**

Throughout the year, St Joseph's School has continued to embrace and strengthen its Catholic identity through meaningful liturgical celebrations and faith-filled experiences. I would like to sincerely thank Father Matthew for his ongoing support and guidance, which has been invaluable in nurturing the spiritual life of our school community.

We began the year with the Commissioning Mass in Merredin for new incoming staff at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's, reinforcing our commitment to Catholic Education WA.

At St Joseph's, the Faith Story and Witness process is central to affirming our Catholic identity and mission, connecting our history and charism with our present and future direction. This year, staff actively engaged in formation sessions that deepened their

understanding of our heritage and explored ways to make Catholic identity visible in daily practice.

Students and staff have participated in significant religious events. These include individual class attendance at weekly Mass, St Joseph's Day Mass, Stations of the Cross, Mary MacKillop Feast Day, ANZAC Service, Mother's Day and Grandparents' Day Liturgy, which provided opportunities for prayer, reflection, and gratitude.

The Parish Community Mass was a resounding success, bringing together many parishioners from surrounding towns and strengthening the bond between the school and the parish.

Staff formation was enriched through professional learning on *Laudato Si'*, deepening our understanding of Catholic social teaching and our responsibility for creation and ongoing Religious Education Accreditation.

This year, our school community was enriched by the creation of a stunning mural designed by Goldfield's artist Em Anders. The artwork beautifully depicts Mary MacKillop, St Joseph's School, and the Wheatbelt landscape, symbolising our deep connection to faith, education, and the region we proudly serve. This mural stands as a visual representation of our Catholic identity and heritage, while celebrating the unique character of our school and its place within the wider community.

These experiences, combined with our ongoing commitment to Gospel values and Mary MacKillop's motto— "*Never see a need without doing something about it*"—have ensured that faith remains at the heart of all we do.

## **Education**

St Joseph's is dedicated to developing the whole person through a Catholic Vision for Learning that extends beyond academic success. Our approach fosters collaboration, creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and appreciation, equipping students to thrive and contribute to a rapidly changing world. Grounded in CEWA's Christ-centred, child-focused philosophy and aligned with the Catholic Education Commission's Strategic Initiatives 2030, this vision reflects our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Informed by research, it embraces inclusivity, diversity, and integral human development, inspiring students to live the Gospel and engage as lifelong learners.

This year, St Joseph's strengthened its commitment to quality teaching and learning through collaboration and professional growth. We have welcomed CEWA consultants who have provided valuable support in key areas, including Students with Disability (SWD), Behavioural Specialists, Religious Education, Digital Learning, and School Improvement. Additional expertise was offered through Telethon Speech and Hearing, ensuring our staff are equipped to meet diverse student needs.

In line with our focus on promoting Catholic education across the region, our students proudly represented St Joseph's at St Joseph's Northam as part of a marketing campaign initiative to raise awareness of the opportunities and values offered by Catholic schools. These experiences reflect our dedication to continuous improvement and to providing an inclusive, future-focused education for every child.

Our staff have continued their professional growth through the completion of the Berry Street Education Model modules, Early Career Modules, Keeping Safe, Gatekeeper, Early Writing in Literacy, NQS, Student Behaviour and Wellbeing, Professional Learning in Effective Communication and Meaningful Parent Meetings, Anaphylaxis and Asthma training, participation in First Nations Education Mapping, and engagement in Catholic School Improvement planning. Attendance at the GEMS Network Meeting supported the planning and collation of data for analysis using NAPLAN, PAT, On Entry & Maths Assessment Interview data, enabling the implementation of strategies and interventions to enhance student achievement in 2026.

St Joseph's continued its commitment to social and emotional learning through the You Can Do It program. With Father Matthew generously supporting the program each week, students developed essential life skills, including confidence, persistence, resilience, organisation, and emotional regulation. These skills have strengthened academic success, fostered positive relationships, and contributed to a caring and respectful school environment.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming the Ride4Life team into St. Joseph's. The team undertook an inspiring six-week journey covering 4,000 km from Perth to Sydney on a unique four-rider tandem bike. The ride aimed to raise funds for Gotcha4Life's mental fitness and suicide prevention programs, and their visit to the school sparked conversations about resilience and wellbeing.

Rich and varied learning experiences have marked this year for our students. From the Kidsafe Incursion promoting safety awareness to cultural workshops such as Tyke-Oh Japanese Drumming and the Messines Bee Workshop, students have engaged in hands-on learning that broadens their understanding of the world. Literacy has been celebrated through Book Week, Simultaneous Storytime, and Literacy Day with local schools, and through an author visit by Sarah Pollard to read her new book, "Marley Dog."

Sporting events, including the YSSSA Swimming Carnival, Cross Country, Athletics Carnival, and Winter Carnival, provided opportunities for students to demonstrate resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Consistency with parent interviews, an Open Classroom Learning Journey, and detailed semester reports have strengthened communication between home and school, ensuring families are informed and involved in their child's learning journey. These

initiatives reflect our commitment to providing high-quality education that meets the needs of every student.

Strategic planning for future compliance and improvement, including preparation for the 2026 Education Compliance Audit, ensures that St Joseph's continues to provide a safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environment for all.

## **Community**

Community spirit has been a defining feature of 2025 at St Joseph's. Events such as the Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts, First Responders Morning Tea, Grandparents' Morning, P & F Sundowner, ANZAC & Remembrance Day Services, and volunteer appreciation gatherings have reinforced the strong partnerships between families and the school.

St Joseph's proudly partnered with the GACS Team from Kalgoorlie, co-ordinated by Jacquie Barton, to host NAIDOC Day this year with SCDHS and MRPS. With the school securing a PAL's grant, we were able to engage the Team from Kalgoorlie, whose expertise ensured the day's success. Staff and students engaged in authentic activities that deepened our understanding and appreciation of First Nations culture.

Our P&F Association has played a vital role in supporting school activities and fundraising efforts, while our collaboration with local schools for carnivals and cultural events has strengthened our connections in the Yilgarn.

This year, our students' creativity and achievement were proudly displayed at the Yilgarn Agricultural Show, highlighting the vibrant learning culture we share.

Welcoming new families and staff throughout the year has enriched our school culture, and we look forward to celebrating together at the upcoming Graduation Mass and End-of-Year Concert and Picnic.

## **Stewardship**

Enrolments have remained consistent over the last three years.

- 2023 (PK-6 = 40) (K-6 = 30) (PP-6 = 24)
- 2024 (PK-6 = 35) (K-6 = 29) (PP-6 = 24)
- 2025 (K-6 = 37) (PP-6 = 32)

Although the Pre-Kindy program was not offered in 2025 due to lower enrolments, St Joseph's has continued to provide meaningful early learning opportunities for families. We were delighted to introduce additional support through our Parents and Bubs sessions, co-ordinated every fortnight by Leah Gale. These sessions created a welcoming space for connection, play, and early development, ensuring our youngest learners and their families remained engaged with our school community.

Stewardship has been evident in the way our school community has embraced service and responsibility. Student Leaders have led fundraising initiatives for Project Compassion, Lifelink, and mental health awareness through events such as Crazy Sock Day, demonstrating compassion and leadership.

Our commitment to sustainability and cultural awareness has been reflected in curriculum planning and incursions that promote care for creation and respect for diversity.

### **Thank You**

I sincerely thank the 2025 CSAC, P&F, and all volunteers whose dedication and generosity have enriched school life, ensuring St Joseph's continues to maintain a strong presence and positive impact within our community.

I would like to personally thank all the staff at St Joseph's in 2025 for their time, effort, and dedication in the roles that you have undertaken. Your commitment has been genuinely appreciated and has made a meaningful difference to our students and school community. Together, we have achieved so much, and I am grateful for the passion and professionalism you bring every day.

To our graduating school leaders—Jett, Leon, and Hamish—I wish you every success as you begin Year Seven in 2026. Your voices have been valued and influential, helping to shape our school in meaningful ways. I hope St Joseph's will always hold a special place in your hearts as you take the next steps on your learning journey.

To the families leaving St Joseph's, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the trust and support you have shown throughout your time with us. Your presence has enriched our school community, and we are grateful for your contributions to St. Joseph's. As you move forward, we wish you every success and happiness,

This year has truly been one of growth, collaboration, and celebration for the entire St Joseph's school community. Our achievements reflect the dedication and commitment of our staff, the unwavering support of our families, and the enthusiasm and resilience of our students. Together, we have created a vibrant, faith-filled environment where every child is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building upon these successes, strengthening our partnerships, and continuing to provide a quality Catholic education that nurtures the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of every student.

Natalie Beaton

Principal 2025

24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

