Official Opening
of the
St Joseph’s College Heritage Centre

Sunday
March 22, 2015
3.30pm
We ask everyone to maintain a prayerful respect during our celebration today
Thank you
Order of Proceedings

Welcome: Mr Anthony Banks, Principal

Origins of Mercy Trail: Mrs Denise Knight, Teacher

Addition of Heritage Centre

Performance: Miss Willow Shortt, College Captain

Lighting of Candle: Mrs Anne Hoyle, Business Manager

Opening Prayer: Mrs Patricia Riordan, Heritage Officer

Prayers of the Faithful:
Miss Willow Shortt, 2015 College Captain
Sr Rosemary Graham, RSM
Dr Tony Finn, Deputy Principal (Community)
Sr Marion McDonald, Past Principal
Mrs Raylee Schultz, Past Student
Mr James Stoeckel, 2015 College Captain

St Joseph’s College Song:
Sung by Mrs Laura Poulton, Music by Sean Pragt, 2014

Blessing & Opening: Fr Mick McKinnon and Sr Annette Schneider, RSM

Music: The Circle of Mercy

Words: Sr Annette Schneider, Past Principal

Closure: Mrs Patricia Riordan, Heritage Officer

Cup of Tea will be served in the College Board Room after today’s proceedings
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great Mercy.

Do justly, love Mercy and walk humbly with your God.
Welcome: Mr Anthony Banks, Principal, St Joseph’s College, Mildura.

Opening Prayer: (Taken from writings of Catherine McAuley)

As we gather today to celebrate over a hundred years of rich history of Mercy in Sunraysia, let us pause to reflect on the wisdom, courage, inspiration and versatility of the Mercy Sisters who have worked in the Mildura district. Let us also recall the vision and strength of Catherine McAuley, who when she saw a need, responded by making Christ present in that place and with those people.

May our prayers today lead us to be like Catherine who encouraged all with her simple yet worthwhile advice.

The simplest and most practical lesson I know. . . is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hands at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow thus we may hope to get on taking short, careful steps not great strides. Be ever ready to praise, to encourage, to stimulate, but slow to censure and still more slow to condemn.

Every place has its own particular ideas and feelings which must be yielded to when possible.

May God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy season.

We ask this as our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen
Prayers of the Faithful:

The God of Mercy has created us to live in unity, harmony and equality. We pray that in recognizing our history, we walk together, talk together and pray together, as one.

Miss Willow Shortt, 2015 College Captain
For all students of St. Joseph’s College: may we find that the variety of gifts, talents and abilities brought by each individual, are blessed by your care and love.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sr Rosemary Graham, RSM
For the Sisters of Mercy: as we celebrate and recognize over one hundred years of service, we remember the educational pioneers whose hard work and vision helped to shape the St. Joseph’s College we know today. We pray for those sisters still working in our community, that their efforts are recognized and rewarded.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dr Tony Finn, Deputy Principal (Community)
For those who lead us in our Society and our Faith, especially our teachers: may they continue to guide and educate our future generations with the same dedication and effort exemplified by the Sisters of Mercy.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.
Sr Marion McDonald, Past Principal
We pray for our Country: may our leaders actively work for reconciliation between all people, strive for justice for all who are disadvantaged and work with mercy values to include the needs of all.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mrs Raylee Schultz, Past Student
For all those we know who are sick and in need of God’s loving care: may your healing power be with them to grant them health and happiness.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mr James Stoeckel, 2015 College Captain
For all those Sisters of Mercy, Past Students and Staff and others we have known and loved and who have died: may you grant them eternal peace.

We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

We make these prayers and all those unspoken in our hearts, to you our God, believing in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, your son.

Amen
Blessing:

Dear Lord, as we add this Heritage Centre to our existing Mercy Trail, may we pause to reflect on all that has happened in education over the last century. May all displays in our Mercy Trail, trigger some memories, encourage discussion, and join us all in recollecting our past association with St. Joseph’s College. Bless all who have contributed in any way to preserving our history in the development of the Mercy Heritage Centre at St Joseph’s College, Mildura.
To all people who have assisted in their time, donated artefacts, provided their stories or helped out in any way to make the St Joseph’s College Heritage displays come together, thankyou.

In particular:

Sr Patricia Fitzgibbon and her sister Marlene
Mrs Bronwyn Burt
Mr Anthony Forrest
St Joseph’s College Maintenance Staff
Mrs Raylee Schultz
Mrs Judy Hall
Mrs Maree Jones
Mr Phil Currah
Mr John Menhennett
Mrs Denise Knight

**Caterer:** Mrs Sandra Tiver, *Canteen Manager*

**Photographer / Publications:** Miss Andy Higgins, *Media & Publicity*

**Printing:** Sunnyland Press, *Mildura*
Heritage Centre Opening
**Heritage Centre:**
This centre was set up in one of the original parlours in the front of the Convent of Mercy, Twelfth Street, Mildura in 2014 to try and capture the history of the education provided by the Sisters of Mercy in Mildura. The Heritage Centre will also showcase the Sisters of Mercy themselves, the student’s work, uniforms and changes; particularly in technology. The Grandfather clock used to stand proudly on the first level of the centre staircase and the piano was used for private playing by the Sisters as well as for teaching students. The old Blackboard and wooden desk are original treasures used over many decades of education.
Past Principal’s Photographs:
Photographs of all past Principals except Sr M Edgeworth are displayed in the passage leading towards the boardroom. Their stories have been voiced over and can be heard using the QRcode Reader App.
Chapel:
In 2006, for the College Centenary, Sr Gael O’Leary, a New Zealand Sister of Mercy and sculptor, was commissioned to tell the Mercy Story in Bronze. She amazingly captured something of the rich history of the Sisters of Mercy in Mildura and the contribution they have made to Catholic Education in the local area and outlying districts. Over a hundred years ago a group of courageous pioneering Sisters of Mercy came to Mildura to minister to the spiritual, physical and educational needs of the many families who had settled here. The Mildura Mercy story is one of triumph over adversity, courageous initiatives and remarkable confidence in the providence of God. As Mildura is so reliant on the Murray River, it seems fitting that this icon of the area should also be symbolised in the Centennial Bronze Sculpture.

Foundation Stone:
The Foundation Stone of the present site of St Joseph’s College was laid in November, 1929 by Right Rev D Foley, Bishop of Ballarat.
**Mercy Garden:**
The Mercy Garden was set up in 2010 as a memorial in appreciation of the service of the Sisters of Mercy and was opened by Sr Rosemary Graham; a long serving Sister to the Mildura community, to mark the 50th Anniversary of her vows.

**Grotto:**
Grottos were used by the Sisters as a place for devotion. They are prevalent in older convents with large gardens. Grottos are generally set up as a shrine to which people come to honour the Virgin Mary or a particular saint. This grotto commemorates the Golden Jubilee of M M Gertrude 1872 – 1922, Albury, Wentworth, Mildura. Built in the late 1920’s early 30’s by an unknown Mason.
Administration Block:
In the administration area there are displays of the origins of the College, some artefacts and staff honour boards indicating their long and dedicated service.

Sisters Graves (Nichols Point Cemetery):
The Mercy Sisters have a dedicated plot at the Nichols Point Cemetery where 18 Sisters are laid to rest. A visit to the College Chapel will also show a marble plaque, listing the names of the Sisters who passed away whilst in service at Mildura.