



Dear Year 6 Graduates of 2025,

As we come to the end of the school year, I want to express how proud I am of each of you. Though I have only had the privilege of knowing you this year, it has been more than enough time to witness your joy each and every day. You are shining examples of living our St Joseph's values of strength and kindness, as leaders of our school, and as role models for our younger students and the wider school community. Each of you is thoughtful, creative, and inspiring, ready to step confidently into the next chapter of your lives.

This evening, we celebrate, not only your final year at St Joseph's, but also the wonderful journey that has brought you to this moment. This year has been filled with learning, laughter, challenges, and achievements. With each year you have been at St Joseph's, you have grown, not only in your learning, but in so many other ways - in kindness, confidence, courage, and character. We are incredibly proud of the young people you have become.

As a Catholic school community, we have shared moments of faith, prayer, and reflection that remind us of God's love and guidance. I encourage you to carry these values with you - let your faith be a source of strength and a light that guides your choices and actions. And when you have moments in your secondary school life where you feel sad, worried, or lost, remember that God is by your side, and carrying you when times feel hard.

I would like to share a well-known story with you:

"One night I had a dream... I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonged to me, and the other to the Lord. At times when I looked back at different times in my life I looked at the footprints in the sand and I noticed that many times there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very hardest and saddest times in my life. This really bothered me, and I questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, in times when I needed you the most, you should leave

me.” The Lord replied, “My precious child, I love you, and I would never, never leave you. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

As you enter the new and busy life of your secondary schools, remember to stop, look, and listen for the signs of God in your life—He will be walking beside you every step of the way and sometimes carrying you. May you always feel his presence in your hearts and minds. And at mass today, Fr Gallacher extended an invitation for you all to continue to be members of our parish. You will always be welcome.

As you prepare for the journey ahead, stay close to your families and trust in the love they have for you. They are your greatest support, and their encouragement and belief in you will continue to be a strong foundation as you embrace this exciting new chapter and all the opportunities and adventures that secondary school life will bring.

As you leave St Joseph's, you will take with you all the learning, friendships, and memories that have shaped your time here. Believe in yourselves, trust in your abilities, and continue to approach life with joy, curiosity, resilience, and compassion.

We wish each of you every success and happiness as you embark on this next stage of your journey. We will miss you all, but you will always remain a part of the St Joseph's story, and I hope you look back on your primary years with pride and happiness.

I feel so honoured to have shared in your final year of primary school at St Joseph's. It has been a privilege to watch you shine, even if only for a short time. May your future be bright, fulfilling, and full of possibility.

And on that note, I would like to finish with a very special Irish blessing for you:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Congratulations, Graduating Class of 2025! May you continue to flourish and shine.

Mrs Marinelli

Principal 2025