



# Diocese of Broome W.A.

## Apostolic Administrator

Dear [Preferred Name],

There is a lovely moment in the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus takes three friends, Peter, James and John up onto a mountain, away from all that had been happening in their lives, away from distractions and busyness.

In the solitude of the mountain, they witnessed an extraordinary and mystical event and moment of faith in Jesus, that encouraged them to want to continue following him even more and for him to be their guiding light. Their guiding influence.

This famous mountain top experience is known as the 'Transfiguration of Jesus' and its memory stayed with these three friends for the rest of their lives. At the height of that experience, Peter exclaimed to his companions, "It is good for us to be here".

My hope for you, [Preferred Name], is that you have found a such place like this in your life. A place where you go to be away from all that weighs in on you, to be still, and allow a time for quiet reflection at a deeper level, away from all that you do.

Jesus led his friends to realise they couldn't stay on the mountain forever and that they needed to continue living their normal lives and sharing their experiences in their various communities. Down from the mountain what they had experienced stayed with them, empowering them, as they journeyed on in their lives.

Recently, Pope Francis reflected on this experience of the disciples at the recent World Youth Day Mass in Lisbon, Portugal. The Pope, speaking to the young people attending World Youth Day, compared what they had experienced together as a similar experience to those disciples on the mountain, and he asked the participants an important question: "What will we take back with us as we resume our lives?"

[Preferred Name], as you reflect on your many years of schooling, the question can be asked. "What will you take with you as you now journey away from your school years?"

As the disciples remembered their experience with Jesus on the mountain, you will remember many times your experiences at St Mary's. I would hope your memories of primary and secondary education will be happy ones, but my greater hope is that what you have learnt there will assist and guide you in challenging times and be a source of strength and meaning in all the good times, as you move in new directions after school.

My prayer too for you is this: to value the opportunities that now await you, achieving your dreams and making a difference to people's lives through your presence and goodness, while in your heart and mind holding dear all those who have been there for you, family, staff and fellow students and friends during your years of formation.

Thank you for who you have been, and for all you have undertaken, over the years of belonging to the community of St Mary's. You have left your mark on the college and shaped your school in a better way for the future.

As your journey begins today in a new way, Pope Francis says: "Have no fear, take heart, do not be afraid".

*"May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sunshine 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".*

Yours sincerely

The Most Rev. Michael H. Morrissey  
Apostolic Administrator