

# INFANT JESUS SCHOOL

*Truth Faith Hope Love*

## School History 1954-2016

Infant Jesus School was established in 1954 by the Dominican Sisters to support the Catholic families in the Parish to pass on the faith and to provide a quality Catholic Education.

The first School was opened on a site in Walter Road and was called St Paul. The school opened with an enrolment of 22 children. The two teachers in charge of the school were Sr Joseph and Sr Dominic. In 1956 the Carmelite Fathers took over the Parish. By the end of 1960 the School in Walter Road had become too small and was unsuitable as children were now enrolled in the School from Year 1 to Year 7. Late in 1960 a 4 acre block was purchased at the corner of Smith and Russell Streets and a new building was built at a cost of 14 500 pounds. The new School had four classrooms and was built in plain white bricks. In 1964 the Parish Pre Primary was built. This was followed in 1967 by the development of the tennis courts at the school. By 1965 there were 230 children enrolled in the school.

In 1975 the first Lay Principal was appointed to the School. Mr John Hollands joined the staff, which included two Dominican Sisters, eight Lay Teachers and a full time Secretary. Up to 1980 the School was co-educational to Year 4. The boys then moved across to St Marks. Also during the 1980s a 4-year-old kindergarten was established and held once per week in the Pre-Primary centre. The Pre-Primary staff supervised this programme until the Pre-Primary program expanded to five sessions per week. From 1981 the boys were able to stay at the School and complete the Education to Year 7.

In 1982 an official opening was held for the multi-purpose room and two storey classrooms. In 1985 Italian lessons began for the whole school. In 1986, for the first time in 30 years, Infant Jesus School opened without the Dominican Sisters. This was the end of an era.

By 1986, the School had a Principal, twenty four staff members (nineteen teachers). This increased to thirty one staff members (twenty two teachers) and 535 students. In 1996, Mr Viv Theseira was appointed Principal of Infant Jesus School.

On 13 September 1996 there was the blessing and official opening of the new administration block, sheltered undercover area and the expansion of the School Library. In 1998, Kindergarten classes began. In 1999, the undercover area was named the 'Brosman Undercover Area' in honour of Mr Brosman who bequeathed a large amount of money to the School. Late in 2003, shelters for top floor classrooms and a covered walkway were completed.

In 2004, the School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year of Catholic Education. The major event was an Open Day. There are lasting memories of the School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which include an Anniversary Wall and a Time Capsule, which will be opened during the School's 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 2029.

In 2005 Mrs Fran Italiano was appointed Principal of Infant Jesus School.

During 2007, many changes occurred within the Catholic System in Western Australia. This resulted in the restructuring of the Catholic School System with Year 7 children being relocated to a secondary campus. With this move Primary schools extended their focus to Early Childhood needs within the community and the provision of resources to support the Catholic Community they serve. This change enabled Infant Jesus School to provide a 3 year old Kindergarten Program. Parents were offered one session of two and half hours per week, on a full cost recovery basis, as there were no funding allocations for this age group. Classes began during Term 3 2007.

A Capital Development Plan was approved by the Catholic Education Office during 2007/8. The plan catered for a complete rebuilding of the school. The building of the new school was completed within five years. The Schools administration was relocated to Smith Street.



During 2008 the Infant Jesus Parish implemented Parish Based, Parent Focussed, and School Supported Sacramental Program. This program focuses on the parents as the first educators of their children and the key role of supporting their children to grow in their Faith.

The beginning of the 2011 school year was significant as the first stage of the new school rebuild was completed. The children in Years 3 – 6 enjoyed moving into the eight new classrooms. The community is very proud of the new Library Resource Centre and the fully enclosed hall. The next stage of the rebuilding of the school commenced during 2011.

Late in 2012, the new administration, Year 1 & 2 classrooms and Kindergarten & Pre-Primary classrooms were completed. The program provided for impressive nature playgrounds which were built in the Early Years to reflect the changing attitudes and thoughts about the importance of children playing in natural environments.

Late in 2013 the new school oval and refurbishment of the Early Years Centre was completed. After an extensive building program the school was transformed into a brand new environment

From the beginning of Term One in 2014 the OSHC Club began operating from the Early Years Buildings. This before school and after school care provided on school site, was an invaluable resource to those parents who were in full-time employment.

During 2014 the community celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Infant Jesus School. This was commemorated with the official opening and blessing of the school. To better reflect our heritage the school buildings were named after significant people in our schools history. The buildings became;

Dominican Learning Centre	~	The Library
Carmelite Gathering Place	~	The School Hall
Saint Catherine Early Learning Centre	~	Early Learning Centre
Saint Rose of Lima Centre	~	Year 1&2
Saint Thomas Aquinas Centre	~	Year 4-6
Holy Child Jesus Centre	~	Support Rooms

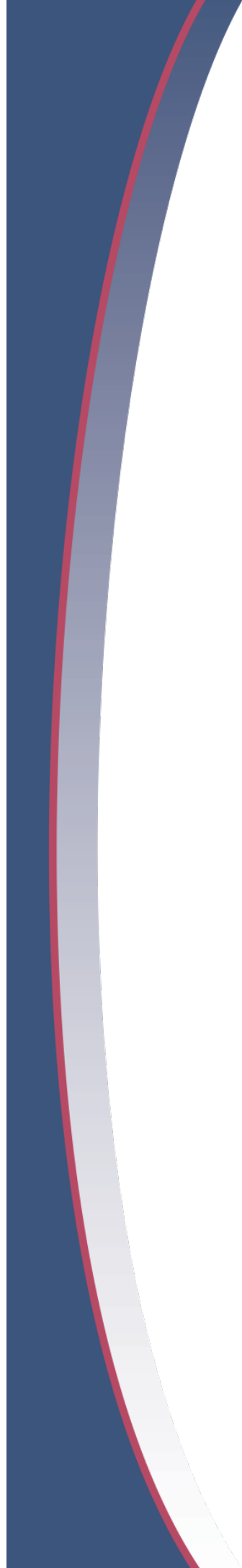
The naming of these buildings was instituted with a mosaic project that every member of the school community participated in to create a name plate for each of the school buildings.

At the anniversary celebration evening, the school's pictorial history was unveiled highlighting the events of the past sixty years.

2014 also saw a greater focus on the implementation of technology into the school curriculum, with the use of personal digital devices aimed at enhancing the learning to assist with a rapidly changing technological and information rich world. By integrating and immersing the Information and Communication Technologies into all areas of the Australian Curriculum students were greater engaged to develop as lifelong learners.

The focus of Christian Service also continued to be a part of the school curriculum throughout 2015, with children from our Year Six Leadership Program organizing and raising significant funds to support local and international agencies. The highlight was the Fun Run for Nepal, which raised over \$12 000 for people in an earthquake that devastated Nepal.

The Music Program at the school has gone from strength to strength with the Infant Jesus School Band achieving significant success in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival by being awarded the P&F Federation Award in the Primary Concert Band section.



After many years of a building program which prevented major events occurring at the school, the P&F Association spent tireless hours organising a School Fete. This was a huge success with many past and present community members coming to school to take the opportunity of seeing and experiencing the new learning environment.

During 2016, the church and the school community focussed on the Year of Mercy. This special Jubilee Year encouraged us all to understand more fully how Jesus Christ, in His words and actions, reveals the mercy of God.

Mrs Fran Italiano resigned from her position in June 2016 and a new principal was appointed. Mr Paul Hille commenced as school principal from Term Three in 2016 .