Thank you for the opportunity to address you at the End of Year Mass.

One of the things I love most about St Joseph’s is that there is such a strong sense of community and belonging. The words **Faith, Learning and Community for today and in the future** are seen alongside our school motto. That should mean a lot to you all, especially those students and staff who are leaving. While our school has many wonderful buildings and facilities, this is not what you will only remember when you leave. It will be the friends you have made, the times that you have shared and the journey you have travelled with the other members of the School family.

Congratulations to the year 7 students on graduating today. Your faith and learning at this school will prepare you well with what challenges and excitements that lay ahead for you. To the parents of these fine children, we thank you for your support and trust in St Joseph’s. Your children are about to go into another phase of their learning and it is important to walk by their side and together enjoy the opportunities that they will encounter as they develop. Thank you also to the staff who are leaving. Thank you for your dedication and service to the students and we wish you well.

To all that have been involved with the school this year – The Front Office, Library, Ground and Canteen staff, all the volunteers and the committees including the School Board, and Parents and Friends. A very big Thank you. To Father Allan for his support throughout the year and to the financial and spiritual support that we received from the parish. To the Staff, led fantastically by our Principal Laurie and Vice Principal Ingrid. A huge Thank you. Your guidance and encouragement has helped the children to embrace life’s challenges with resilience and confidence.

Each child is encouraged to strive to achieve their maximum potential, to maintain the strong School values and to engage in School life with passion.

Thank you to all our school community including all our wonderful children, parents, grandparents and carers for your support and on behalf of the School Board I wish you a very holy Christmas and a wonderful and exciting 2016.

John Flynn

Chairman of School Board