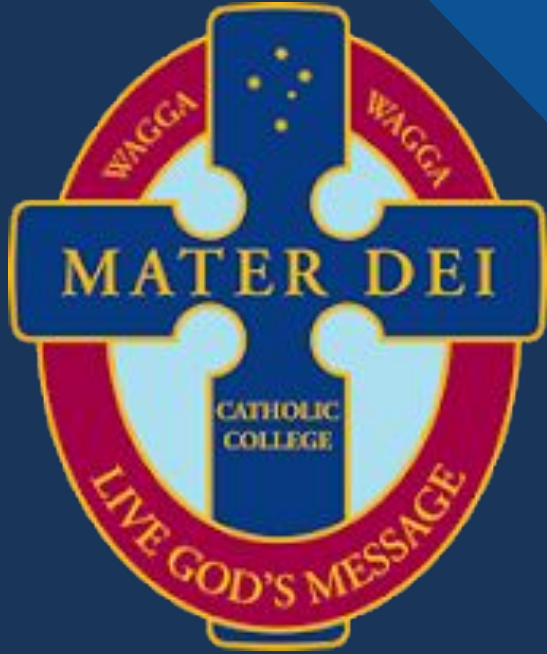




Mater Dei, 'lights our way'



Mater Dei Catholic College

Our College was brought to life in 2004, when our three local Catholic Schools were closed, St Michaels (Boys 7-10) , Mt Erin (Girls 7-10) and Trinity Senior College (Co-ed 11,12) to make way for two new Co-Educational Catholic Colleges in Wagga, Kildare Catholic College, and our College.

We are fortunate to be located at the new site, and our Contemporary buildings and grounds overlook beautiful Lake Albert.





Mater Dei
Catholic
College





Louise, Abi, Caitlyn and I are each in Year 10 at Mater Dei Catholic College.

As a school community we strive to follow in the footsteps of Nano Nagle.



In the Spirit of our Founders Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice Mater Dei Catholic College strives to be a nurturing community which:

- is founded in Catholic faith, justice and love
- is inclusive
- is learner centred
- seeks excellence and wisdom

To nurture, we are called....

- to care for each individual, affirming their dignity and uniqueness
- to foster right relationships with God, creation, self and others
- to provide particular attention to those most in need
- to build a welcoming, safe and supportive school environment.



Birds eye view of Mater Dei
Catholic College



With a focus on continued improvement we strive to make Mater Dei Catholic College the very best learning environment. Last year we finished our new classrooms and this year we are building a Chapel.

Father Plunkett's Cross

This special cross was commissioned as a constant reminder of the tireless work of Fr Wilf Plunkett. Our College sits on land which was left to Fr Plunkett. On our same site, he built a second Parish Primary School, Mater Dei Primary, and much later our School emerged.

A new chapel is being currently being built on this site, which aligns so perfectly with his vision to make these schools special places of learning and faith! Father Plunkett was a strong and supportive Parish Priest for the region and even though he is retired he still enjoys attending school Masses.



The Icons of Nano and Edmund...

As a dual Charism School, our beloved Icons take centre stage during our Founders Day Masses and in liturgies throughout the year.

These beautiful symbols are an ever present reminder of our rich history and the cultures and traditions established by the Presentation Sisters and Christian Brothers who founded our Catholic Schools in Wagga Wagga.





We invite the
Wagga
Presentations
Sisters to all our
Celebrations. Here
they are helping us
celebrate Mass on
Founders Day!

Mater Dei, ventures out to the margins...

Our Team of Street Retreat Students and Teachers travel to Melbourne each year to work with the Homeless and disadvantaged. The students spend time visiting the Exodus Community, and working with Brother Doug and Brother Harry, considering the levels of social injustice and disadvantage and contributing to support services such as the Vinnies Soup Van, that operates a night time service in Melbourne's CBD. Students are challenged to step outside their own comfort zones and approach Homeless people on the streets, offering them a gift, conversation or sustenance.



Service in action!





Mater Dei Catholic College aspires to be more like Nano Nagle and to follow in her footsteps. To show this we regularly do what we can to help in the community. This year Mater Dei students have been seen working in the Green Team and Vinnies winter appeal. The Green Team help those in need with garden problems and lend a hand to clean up. The Vinnies Winter appeal saw students donating what they could to make sure those less fortunate than us would have a warmer winter.





Sister Barbara Webber (PBVM)...

A proud House Patron

WEBBER



We are lucky to have Sister Barbara Webber as one of our 5 House Patrons. Sister Barbara came to Wagga when she was 6 months old and is currently following her vocation as a Presentation Sister. Sister Barbara joined the Presentation sisters and went on to become a Teacher, teaching in Ganmain, Sydney, Urana and Henschke. She spent the majority of her career as a teacher at Mount Erin High School, where she taught the Commercial class and ended up as the Pastoral Care Coordinator from 1992 to 2000.



Sister Barbara became the manager of Micah House when she left Mount Erin and personally raised awareness of the needs of the homeless and raised the funds needed to keep Micah House running. She has also been involved with Sunflower House, Erin Earth and the Kairos Outside programme.



Through these commitments her vocation, Sister Barbara has been an exemplary role model of what it means to be a Presentation Sister, by burning the was flame that was lit by Nano Nagle.

WEBBER



The Webber House Shield has an emerald green background that represents the background of the Presentation Sisters, coming from Ireland. Sister Barbara's inspiration, Nano Nagle is represented by the glowing lantern. We can see through Sister Barbara's work, her ability to bring light and joy to the people of the community who need it most. The calligraphy pen illustrates Sr Barbara's academia and attention to pastoral care when corresponding throughout regional farming families and individuals when needed.

Sister Barbara's order of the Presentation Sisters is shown in the contemporary representation of the cross and insignia are symbolic of the Presentation Sisters. These features of the Webber shield encapsulate the values and purpose of Sr Barbara Webber, who we are lucky to have as a visitor to all our special events at the College.



The Heritage Centre - Mount Erin

This year in Wagga Wagga we saw the opening of the Mount Erin Heritage Center, dedicated to the Sisters who helped the community back in the early days of establishing the convent and associated Schools.

In 1874, a group of five nuns left their home in Ireland, bound for a new life half a world away in Wagga Wagga. This year, they opened the first ever Presentation School in Australia, referred to as the 'Stable School' pictured to the right.

In 1876, they opened the Convent and associated School, known as Mt Erin, pictured below. It was always a dream of Sister Barbara's to see our shared History preserved in such a special way. The Sisters now open the Heritage Centre to the public.



Original stables, the Sisters' first school, in course of demolition – 1959.
(by courtesy of Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser).



The Sacred Heart Presentation Convent,
Wagga, N.S.W.
Sacred Heart Presentation Convent – 1876.



The Commissioning of the Tercentenary Lantern in Wagga, 31st July 2018

Last Tuesday we had the privilege of attending the Tercentenary Opening Ceremony - Ritual of the Lanterns. This special occasion begun our period of celebration of Nano's life's work and mission being realised among Presentation Schools across Australia.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Cathedral, the site of the original 'Stable School' established by 5 Presentation Sisters, when they first arrived in Wagga in 1874. Shortly after this they commissioned and built Mt Erin Convent and Schools in 1876.





Thank you, we hope you've
enjoyed hearing about our
College and the ways in which
we bring to life Nano's light!

Mater Dei Catholic College