



Good Afternoon Staff and Students, a very special welcome to our invited guests, the Presentation Sisters, we are so grateful to have your company today.

Our prayer focus today acknowledges the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated annually on the 21st of November. The theme of our reflection today is “symbols to treasure”, inspired by Luke’s Gospel passage, “Mary treasured up all these things, and pondered them in her heart”.

Our Students will bring forward to the prayer space, an array of symbols to treasure, reflecting the lives and contributions of our Presentation Sisters from the Wagga Wagga Congregation.

MAY NOT NEED TO READ -

XXX - will bring forth the Processional Cross, representing Mary’s role in the Incarnation of Christ.

XXX - will carry the College Candle, placing it into the lantern, representing the international symbol of Nano Nagle, a reminder of her carrying light and peace to those in need.

XXX - will place the Image Mary of Southern Cross, reflecting our College Patron

XXX - will adorn our prayer focus with Flowers, a reminder of the Presentations Sisters roles as stewards of creation, especially reflected in their Erin Earth Community garden project.

XXX - will place the Basin and towel as symbols of the authentic servant leadership displayed by the Presentation Sisters in our local community.

XXX - will carry the Bible, as a commitment to honouring God’s word

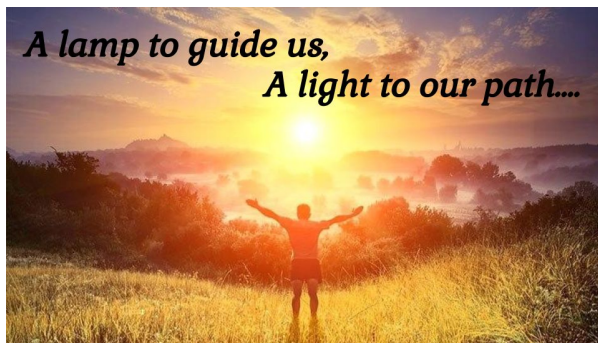
XXX - will contribute the Book and Pen as symbols of the Presentation Sisters contribution to education in this region and

XXX - will carry Sr. Nola Fox’s Book - A dream unfolds, as a testament to the sisters contribution to honour and share the history and tradition espoused in the Presentation story.

Today we launch the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia's newly commissioned song, "A light to our Path" - composed by Amara Primero and performed by Diana Rouvas. Many of you would be familiar with Diana Rouvas, who won The Voice - Australia, this year.

As the song is played during the procession, take this opportunity to reflect on the words; consider your role in the Presentation Story, who has lit your path? And how are you inspired to light the paths of others, in our world today?

Student Procession - whilst the song is played - 'Light to our Path'



Cross (representing Mary's role in the Incarnation of Christ)

Candle to be placed in the lantern (the international symbol of Nano Nagle, a reminder of her carrying light and peace to those in need)

Mary Image

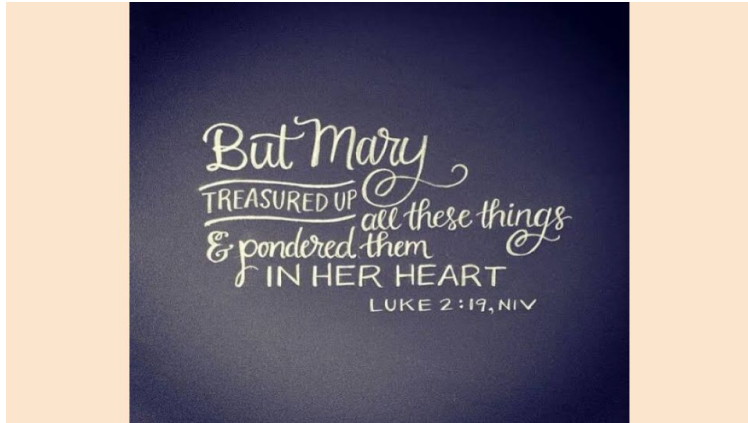
Flowers (stewardship of creation - Erin Earth)

Basin and towel (authentic service to community)

Bible (commitment to honouring God's word)

Book and Pen (academic life, education in Wagga)

Sr. Nola Fox's Book - A dream unfolds (testament to Louis' contribution to honour the history and tradition)



In Luke's gospel we hear that "Mary treasured up all these things pondering them in her heart"... such things as the words of the angel, a mysterious invitation of love, in life.

In the words of Elizabeth – Mary found a hope-filled blessing of love in life.

In the words of the shepherds in the stable - Mary found good news of the gift of love, for the lowliest of God's creation first.

In the words of her son- Jesus, whom she found preaching in the temple – Mary found the embodiment of love in life.

All these things, Mary treasured up and pondered in her heart.



Mary's gifts allowed each developing event and every new word to shed light on what was to unfold, having ultimate faith and trust in God's plan. She nurtured within her the capacity for inner stillness and contemplation that led her to accept her Son's call and mission. Often, she found herself holding the tension of unknowing in her heart while trusting she would come to understand and be at peace with the Mystery that lay before her.

As Mary pondered her calling, her thought patterns circled until insights, meaning and wisdom were revealed. May this woman whose spirituality was based on surprise, the unexpected emergence of God in her life, inspire us to be disciples who cooperate with creative energy, inspired by the mystery of our faith.

Our call today is to see Mary as a model of the new vision for God's Kingdom.

Mary remains as a presence in each one of us and in all whom we encounter.

May our hearts be open, as Mary's was, ready to receive all the fruits of the spirit, in love.

Let us respond together prayer, when indicated, the words are highlighted on the screens.

We bless ourselves, in the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, AMEN (sign of the cross, leading the congregation).

Mary, we honour you and the grace which fills you.

The Word of God imbues you, permeates you with the fragrance of the Holy Spirit. You are truly blessed, woman for all God's children, mother to all God's creation.



Response:

Mary of the Presentation, pray for us.

Nano Nagle, pray for us.

RESPONSE: Mary of the Presentation, pray for us
Nano Nagle, pray for us

May we be open hearted, open minded, open armed, as we say “yes” in faith, hope, and trust. We pray that our world comes to know the peace and love enfleshed by Jesus and reflected in the love of his mother Mary.

RESPONSE: Mary of the Presentation, pray for us
Nano Nagle, pray for us

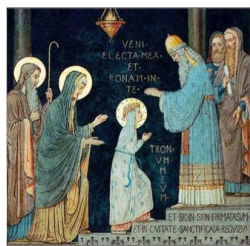
For this community: that we may be ‘Mary’ and ‘Nano’ to each other, recognising the gifts of Jesus in each other.

RESPONSE: Mary of the Presentation, pray for us
Nano Nagle, pray for us

May we be inspired to treasure up all our blessings and loved one’s, pondering them in our hearts, encouraging a spirit of stillness and contemplation.

RESPONSE: Mary of the Presentation, pray for us
Nano Nagle, pray for us

In the name of the father, and of the son and of the holy spirit, AMEN



The early Presentation Sisters, along with our beloved Wagga Presentation Sisters, Associates and Friends of Nano over the years have been the guardians of Nano’s dream to engage in the Mission of God in this distinctive way.

Their hopes and dreams, their passion and their stories survive in us, as have been inspired by the Presentation charism. These women and men have left us a spiritual legacy to fuel our vision and shape a path to achieve it.

To conclude our reflection today, Claudia, Macy and Louise will share a poem, entitled Woman of Welcoming Heart, written by Raphael Consedine and published by the Presentation Sisters in Victoria.

Woman of Welcoming Heart

They know her in the crowded lonely ways
woman of welcoming heart, whose lantern sheds
kind beams for eyes waste-minded by the weary miles,
for them her hands are open, for her their doors.

Room is made by dim and smoking fire, some small
crust, shared, and she, receiving, knows still more to
give, and, welcomed, grows in art of welcoming.

Apart, in shadowed hours of night and dawn,
leaning heart to heart on the One who pulses life
into the lowliest and least of all that lives,
she learns to unclasp the last-kept store
and lay it down in welcome: 'Take and share.'



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Woman of Welcoming Heart

Until, the last loaf broken, the last wine poured,
she can dare the outer darkness, the fine-piercing
sword, and bear to be bereft...

heart-certain that beyond this last black mile
light streams from beckoning windows and from
wide-flung door,
where she will hear the voice grown dear in silent
listening years:

'Woman of welcoming heart, here is your home.'

Raphael Consedine PBVM



Until, the last loaf broken, the last wine poured,
she can dare the outer darkness, the fine-piercing sword,
and bear to be bereft...

heart-certain that beyond this last black mile
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'Woman of welcoming heart, here is your home.'



Thank you to all the students who have played a special part in today's liturgy. As presentation people, the story of Nano Nagle and the deep connection we share with our very own Presentation Sisters in Wagga holds a special place in our hearts.

As the sisters began to retire from their ministry in schools of the Riverina, many lay teachers took up the mantle to share the stories of Nano Nagle and inspire the charism to be a living legacy. In August next year, we take our commitment to this, one step beyond, in opening our College to Presentation Heritage Schools around the Country. Hosting the Nagle Education Alliance Student Conference at Mater Dei will provide us

further opportunity to learn and share together, inspiring our students in the theme A'flame for the future.

Today we say thank you, to all those who have carried Nano's lantern, and kept the flame burning bright for the children of the future. Just as Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart, so may we treasure the lives and work of our Presentation Sisters. Thank you

Let us take this opportunity to applaud our Presentation Sisters for their ministry and service.