



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO/PRINCIPAL

I can't help but think that the change of seasons is one of the greatest gifts God endowed to us. In one sense the evolution of summer to autumn provides welcome relief from the relentless Australian summer of consistently high temperatures and high humidity to temperatures much more welcome, much less taxing, much less harsh on the environment. A period of respite. In another sense the change of seasons reminds us of the independence and the awesomeness of nature, of God's creation. Regardless of the relentless progress of technology and innovation, temperatures still fall in Autumn, leaves change colour and then abandon their branches for the winter and the days become significantly shorter. And we are powerless to intervene. And still, again, the change of season is a reminder of the inevitability and relentlessness of time marching on; a reminder that nothing stays the same forever. And perhaps that too is something important to embrace.

The changes of seasons remind me of our vulnerability in the bigger picture of God's creation. And vulnerability is the precursor to humility and humility would almost always be a grace because humility creates the space for God's work to take precedence; in our own lives and in our relationships with others. To live life to the full is to embrace change, constantly, but in so doing, to see the grace and the goodness of the gifts of the seasons.

Autumn (by Leunig)

We give thanks for the harvest of the heart's work;

Seeds of faith planted by faith;

Love nurtured by love;

Courage strengthened by courage.

We give thanks for the fruit of the struggling soul,

The bitter and the sweet;

For that which has grown in adversity

And for that which has flourished in warmth and grace;

For the radiance of the spirit in Autumn

And for that which must now fade and die.

We are blessed and give thanks

AMEN

Tony Fitzgerald
CEO/Principal



OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2019

Mater Dei's new School Captains for 2019 - Ciaran E and Olivia V were elected at the end of 2018 by their peers and by Mater Dei staff. They both have significant roles to play in our school assemblies and liturgies as well as other community events such as the Mater Dei Golf Day and Foundation Dinner. They are fantastic ambassadors for our school and all of the students look to them both for guidance, friendship and leadership.



Our new senior 2019 House Captains also have significant roles to play in our school Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and weekly sport timetable. Our Secondary House Captains are: Nathan W (blue), Bethany R (red), Jarrod B (yellow) and Ellen M (green).



Our new Primary Student Representative Councillors; Ryan C, Maya B, Talara G and Tyler P are also important role models within the younger school and as such are also afforded additional opportunities and responsibilities in daily routines and also significant roles in our school assemblies and liturgies.

Cover Photo: Jackson G-H at the Swimming Carnival