

# ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

– Veritas

St John's Primary School was opened in 1948 by the Sisters of Mercy, named in honour of St John the Evangelist. The majority of the original seventy-nine students were from European migrant families living in the local area. Most of the school was built by voluntary labour.

In 1950, the Dominican Sisters from Dongara took over responsibility for the parish school and Sister Mary Albertus OP was the first Superior.

The original Church-hall was initially considered adequate for the number of students, but very quickly enrolments exceeded 100. Two new classrooms, a storeroom and a small office were blessed and opened in 1951. Enrolments peaked in 1958 to 410 pupils with small numbers going on to Junior and Leaving Certificate (Years 10 and 12). 1958 also saw the employment of the first lay teacher.

The first lay principal was appointed in 1981 when the Dominican Sisters relinquished control of the school. Enrolments declined in the 80's and early 90's due to the aging population of Scarborough and the many new schools that opened in the northern suburbs. But with the re-zoning of Scarborough in the 2000's from single house blocks to multi-residential dwellings, the popular area has attracted new, younger families.



Sunday morning at church

## OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH, DOUBLEVUE

The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Angelico Street, Woodlands, was opened and dedicated six years ago on May 13th, 1973.

It is built of Toodyay stone, and the design was the dream of a Priest Architect — Father Bonaventure Leahy, O.P.

The Parish celebrated the 21st Anniversary of the first Mass, last December said in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney-Smith on December 1st, 1957.

Much has been accomplished since then, and the Dominican Fathers, Sisters and the parishioners are justifiably proud of their efforts.

During this 21 years, Holy Rosary school was commenced and added to as needs grew for more classrooms. Only then was the Church commenced and opened in 1973.

Lastly the Priory and Parish Centre, was completed and opened on October 6, 1976.

The Dominican Fathers are this year celebrating their 25th Anniversary of arrival in Western Australia. The first Parish Priest was Father Fintan Campbell, O.P. who established the parish of St. Dominic's, Innaloo, and which at that time encompassed the area now known as Woodlands.

This became a separate parish under his successor, Father Francis

## St John's started with 79 pupils

The Dominican Sisters came to Scarborough in August, 1950 at the invitation of Archbishop Prendiville, to take charge of St John's Primary School.

Previous to this, the Sisters of Mercy had conducted the school, which had an enrolment of 79.

Fr McBride was parish priest.

Three Sisters took up residence in a small house in Clifton Street and remained there till the present Convent in Lalor Street was opened in 1953.

From 1950 to 1952 the numbers in St John's increased to 175 and the school originally a Church Hall, was greatly extended and improved.

By 1953 five sisters were on the staff and there were 220 children attending. The girls who wished to continue after Primary School remained at St John's and five girls were in attendance and by 1956 there was one Leaving Candidate, five more girls entered for the Junior and numbers had increased to 330.

The number of students reached its peak in 1958 when there were 410 pupils and the first lay teacher was employed.

In recent years there has been a

families are settling in the newer suburbs to the north.

Throughout the years there has been a very active Parents and Friends Association which has provided much valuable equipment for children and teachers.

In 1951, the Sisters were asked to supply staff for Gwelup and two Sisters travelled from Scarborough each day. Later on the Sisters staffed the Parish School at North Beach and lived there for several years.

Due to subdivision of land for State houses, the Innaloo parish of St Dominic's was officially started, the parish priest being Fr Campbell, a Dominican priest.

In February, 1955, St Dominic's School was opened with 96 children and a staff of two sisters. The Sisters travelled each day from the Convent in Scarborough. Between 1959 — 1962 the numbers increased to over 200 with seven sisters on the staff.

The present enrolment is 182 and there are seven full-time and two part-time teachers.

A very enthusiastic Parents and Friends has assisted in many ways

Throughout the years there has been an active Parents and Friends Association which has provided much needed equipment for children and teachers, and constantly improved both the school building and the grounds.

School facilities have been upgraded constantly due to a very proactive and involved School Board and educational funds have been wisely allocated to improve student learning outcomes.

The 2000's saw a revitalisation of the school and it is now an esteemed, vibrant, single stream, co-educational Catholic school community from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six. Enrolments are at capacity in 2023, with over 200 students and 30 excellent teachers and support staff led by Principal, Velma Erskine.

**Founded on the traditions of the Dominican Sisters, St John's School is an integral, involved and very important part of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, a school community which places Jesus at its centre as it endeavours to follow in Jesus' footsteps every day.**