Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Supporters of St Joseph's College,

A sincere welcome to everyone for 2007. School commenced for staff on 29 January with a Mass for all teachers in the three Parish schools. At the Mass all staff were commissioned to the church ministry of education. The significance of this is crucial to the success of our Catholic schools. Staff have returned to the College with a renewed focus of assisting every individual student achieving their own personal best.

We have one new member of staff for 2007. Mr Brenton Davie has joined the grounds staff and will be apprenticed to Mr Wayne De Venny.

Returning to the College in 2007:
- Mrs Louise McLaughlin has returned from maternity leave. Mrs McLaughlin will be job-sharing with Mr Foster.
- Ms Fiona Murray has returned from leave. Ms Murray will be job-sharing with Mrs Rodgerson.
- Mr Chris Morrison has returned from leave. Mr Morrison will also be the Year 9 Coordinator this year.

Please join with me in welcoming Mrs McLaughlin, Ms Murray and Mr Morrison back to St Joseph’s College.

Last week, Mrs Elliot resigned her teaching position at the College. Mrs Elliott has accepted a teaching position at St Luke's College in Karratha, Western Australia. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Elliott most sincerely for the commitment she has made to the students of the College, particularly in the areas of Science and Careers and ask God to bless Mrs Elliott as she and her husband pursue a new life in the west.

Congratulations to our class of 2006 who achieved commendable HSC results. Four students achieved a UAI over 90 and most students who applied for university courses were successful in gaining their first preference. Added to this is the fact that they are a great group of young men and women who we pray will continue to be responsible members of our society.

2007 has begun with some extreme challenges for emergency services personnel. With bushfires rampant through Victoria and southern NSW and then flooding in the Northern Territory, Victoria and South Australia, many Australian families have been "stretched to the limit". We are very fortunate to live in a part of Australia where there is so much to look forward. It certainly has been very humbling hearing of how some people live in China over the last week. We have much to be grateful for!

Accompanying this document is the College’s Strategic Leadership and Management Framework 2007-2009. I am very grateful to all staff, parents and students who contributed to the formation of this document. It is a wonderful platform and if we implement it correctly, it will take us to new heights of achievement! We continue to commit to community here at the College; we care about others and treat everyone as we would like to be treated. Our society needs good young men and women who are community-minded citizens. That’s what we aim to provide.

2007 is a fresh start for all of us. I’ll repeat what I wrote to you this time last year. Positive feelings and a positive outlook can be a great base for an excellent year. Justin Herald is his book ‘It’s all a Matter of Attitude’, writes: "A Positive Anything is Better than a Negative Nothing".

I hope that 2007 is a stellar year for all members of our College community and I pray that St Joseph will guide each and every one of us.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mr Kim Dixon’s father who passed away during the holidays.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mr Peter McLoughlin
Principal