

Artworks highlight faith of foundress

A statue of the foundress of the Presentation Sisters and a leadlight window of the presentation were blessed in a ceremony at St Mary's College recently as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations at the school.

Known as the 'lady with the lantern' for her nighttime excursions of mercy around the backstreets of Cork, Ireland, the statue depicts Nano Nagle with her traditional lantern replaced with a St Mary's College heart.

The statue was created by Tasmanian sculptor Ben Tolhurst who spent a considerable amount of time researching Nano Nagle's story.

"The story touched me and it meant a lot," he said.

He says he hopes that the sculpture will serve as an inspiration for the students of the school.

Principal Helen Spencer says that Nano Nagle is much-loved by the student body.

"To have a representation of Nano is a visual reminder

of our call to serve God and to build the reign of God," she said.

The new leadlight 'Presentation Window' in the college's Adrian Doyle Chapel was blessed on the same day by Emeritus Archbishop Doyle.

"We pray that we, and all those in the decades to come who see our reflection in them, will be touched by your love for creation and the simplicity of Mary's loving commitment to you," His Grace prayed during the blessing.

The window depicts Mary, the mother of Jesus, with her hands held up towards streams of light.

Sr Gabrielle Morgan, who worked with St Mary's Catholic College visual arts students Imogen, Isabella and Taylah on the window's design, reflected during the service that the stance of Mary in the window is a 'yes' with her whole being to God.

"When Jesus, as a child, is taken to the temple to be blessed, Mary is told that



L-R: (back) Principal Helen Spencer with students Taylah, Imogen and Isabella, (front) Sr Gabrielle Morgan PVM and Carol Prichard, who designed the 'Creation Windows' in the college's Adrian Doyle Chapel. The 'Presentation Window' (right) in the college's chapel was designed by three students who worked with congregational leader of the Presentation Sisters in Tasmania Sr Gabrielle Morgan on the design. Local glass designer and maker Merinda Young was commissioned to make the window.

her 'yes' will mean that a sword of sorrow will pierce her heart, so she begins to realise that saying 'yes' to whatever God asks of her is not going to be easy," Sr Gabrielle said.

The students said that

ideas for the design had changed multiple times, and at one point had included a rose, or a set of rosary beads.

"We decided to change our ideas because it was about Mary," Isabella said.

Taylah said that they were

'surprised' at 'how amazing it turned out'.

"We're also really happy," she said, "because we know that we can come back in 20 years and see the window still there, and that's like a part of us is here at St Mary's."



Who is Nano Nagle?

Honora 'Nano' Nagle is the founder of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as the Presentation Sisters.

Born in Ireland in 1718 to a Catholic family, Nagle was sent to France to study as Catholic education was illegal in Ireland at the time.

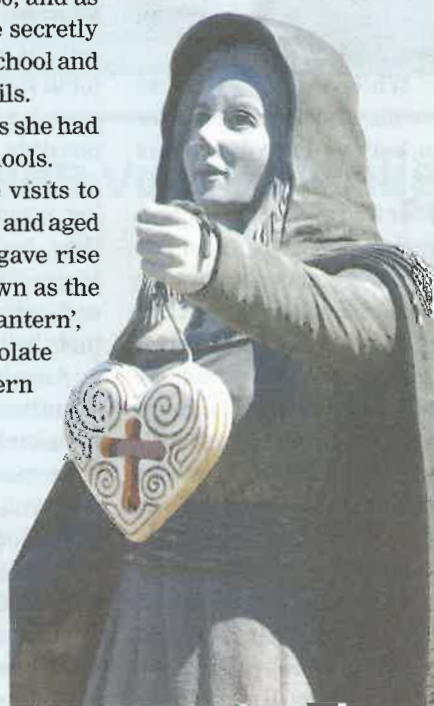
After finishing her education she returned to Ireland with a desire to help the poor. She initially decided to join a religious community, the Ursulines, in Belgium but through the advice of her spiritual director realised that her mission was in Ireland.

At the age of 36, and as a lay woman, she secretly opened her first school and welcomed 30 pupils.

Within 15 years she had opened seven schools.

Her nighttime visits to the sick, destitute and aged in their homes, gave rise to her being known as the 'Lady with the Lantern', with these apostolate called her 'lantern works'.

In 1775 her religious community was established; it was approved by Rome in 1805.



Nagle took the religious name Mother Mary of St John of God.

She died in 1784 with her final words to her sisters reportedly, "Love one another as you have hitherto done ... Spend yourselves for the poor."

The Presentation Sisters arrived in Tasmania in 1866.

In 2013, Pope Francis declared her to be Venerable, recognising that she possessed 'heroic virtue' during her life, the second of four stages in the process of canonisation.

This year marks 300 years since Nagle's birth.

Uniform project fosters a sense of pride



Mt Carmel College student Jenna surrounded by a sea of uniforms | destined for East Timor.

Mount Carmel College students have pulled together to recycle their old school uniforms and change the lives of a group of students overseas - thanks to a new school initiative called the School Pride Project.

The idea of Year 9 student Jenna, the project was inspired by a major changeover of winter uniform announced at the school last year which led to a changed style and colour of winter tunics, shirts and ties.

"I was speaking to my family about what a shame it was that all those old uniforms would go to waste and how great it would be to find a school who might be able to use them," Jenna said.

After initially looking at a possible option in Syria, which did not come to fruition, Jenna made contact with teacher Chris Bracken at Guilford Young College who had connections with an orphanage and school in East Timor.

Jenna then sent a sample over which received a resounding "Yes, please" from the sisters at Maubara orphanage in Dili.

The idea then went from strength to strength as the school and broader community were happy to get behind the project.

"Mount Carmel students and their families were excited by the prospect of

recycling their old uniforms and helping others out - and the donations came in thick and fast," Jenna said.

"Then I searched for a quote for cutting the winter shirts to summer shirt length for the students because of the East Timorese heat and local business Just Hems were also inspired by the idea and happy to donate their skills and time for free."

Likewise a local couple were happy to take the first batch of uniforms over to East Timor on one of their own trips, to ensure they made it to the girls at the orphanage.

"Everyone had been so supportive and kind and I am just so happy to see what

started as a simple idea has grown into something worthwhile," Jenna said.

"And the girls in East Timor are so proud of the uniforms which is great."

The changeover of Mount Carmel uniform will continue for the rest of the year, during which time it is hoped a second batch of uniforms can be sent to East Timor.

Jenna is also searching for a similar way of using up a stock of brown school jumpers that have also been donated through the School Pride project.

"East Timor is too hot for the jumpers so we hope to come up with another school or group that might be able to use them."