



# Loreto Primary School

- A Mary Ward School

## Prospectus

Seekers of Truth and Doers of Justice

Live more simply, so that others may simply live



Loreto Founder – Mary Ward: 23 January 1585 – 30 January 1645

**SINCERITY FREEDOM JUSTICE TRUTH JOY**

**Creating Confidence, Generosity and Responsible Living**

# **Loreto Primary School**

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## **SCHOOL HOURS**

### **Monday – Thursday:**

07:50 – 12:30 Grade R

07:50 – 13:30 Grade 1

07:50 – 14:30 Grade 2 - 7

### **Friday:**

07:50 – 12:30 Grade R

07:50 – 13:00 Grade 1 – 7

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# 1. Welcome to the Loreto Family

Our schools and colleges worldwide are known by different names for historical reasons – IBVM, Loreto or Loretto and the Congregation of Jesus- which has created a strong sense of belonging to one international family and of sharing a common identity through our founder Mary Ward. Currently, we have almost 150 Loreto schools and colleges with 70 000 students, 5 500 staff members and many hundreds of thousands of past pupils across the globe. Our schools make use of the common international guidelines which are a tangible sign of our worldwide network.

The values of Mary Ward form the core of our Loreto Family. The values of Sincerity, Freedom, Justice, Truth and Joy are the foundation on which our relationships, our work and our interaction with all of creation is built. Through the instilling of the Mary Ward values and by creating awareness through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) each Loreto child is able to build a strong sense of social justice and contribute positively to society.

Loreto Schools are dedicated to providing an excellent, holistic education in an environment in which a child's curiosity and imagination is stimulated through the learning of soft skills such as: -

- 1.1. Critical thinking and Problem-Solving,
- 1.2. Collaboration or Teamwork,
- 1.3. Adaptability, Tolerance and Resilience,
- 1.4. Creativity,
- 1.5. Critical Observation,
- 1.6. Curiosity and Imagination.

These skills not only equip the child for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century but develop within the child a love for life-long learning.

Education at Loreto Schools means educating a child for life. Education at Loreto doesn't only focus on academic achievement. It also instills values and skills thus providing each child with the framework necessary for each to take their meaningful place in society; and to contribute to the common good. A Loreto child learns that with the privilege of freedom and opportunities comes social responsibility and the awareness of the beauty and the fragility of Creation.

## 2. Mary Ward

**(23 January 1585 – 30 January 1645)**

Mary Ward was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1585 in the north of England during a time of persecution and great difficulty for Catholics. Her personal quest for God's will gradually became clear to her. God showed her that she was to begin a new way of religious life for women. With a small group of friends, she travelled to Saint-Omer in Flanders. She understood that they were to take the same way of life as the Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius of Loyola, as far as was possible for women. Mary Ward and her first companions worked tirelessly to promote the faith, through the education of girls, spiritual conversations and whatever social and charitable activities were relevant to the time, place and circumstances. Mary Ward's belief in the dignity and worth of women enabled her to deepen in her followers the sense that "women can do much" in Church and society. She won support, particularly from those who recognised the need for the education of girls. However, Mary Ward's vision of an apostolic religious life for women did not fit in with the Church's view at that time.

She believed that God was calling her and her followers to live a life without enclosure so that the members could be free to respond to the greatest needs of the people they served. Such a way of life required a centralised form of government, a concept that was new for women religious. She encountered many obstacles which culminated in her imprisonment and the suppression of her Institute. Mary Ward accepted her suffering as she accepted poverty and sickness, with trust in God. She remained cheerful, calm, and unswerving in her loyalty to the Church. She died at York in England on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1645.

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Pope Benedict XVI published a Decree recognizing the "heroic virtue" demonstrated by Mary Ward and thereby conferring on her the title "Venerable". Mary Ward's foundation exists today worldwide under the names Congregation of Jesus and Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Loreto. Her followers minister in forty-four countries across five continents.

Exiled from her own land, and persecuted for her beliefs, Mary Ward is without doubt a woman for our time.

Acknowledgement: CJ/IBVM Community

### **3. Loreto Schools' History**

#### **Loreto Nana Sita, Pretoria**

Three Loreto nuns, Sr Margaret Jolivet, Sr Joseph Calahan and Sr Theresa Calahan arrived in Pretoria from Ireland in 1878. They travelled by boat to Durban and then rode up to Pretoria by ox-wagon. Sr Margaret Jolivet, Sr Joseph Calahan and Sr Teresa Calahan, fulfilled their mission on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1878 when Loreto Skinner Street was finally opened, with 26 pupils (20 pupils in the High School and 6 in the Primary School). This was the start of the Loreto school community in South Africa. Loreto Convent School (Skinner Street) in Nana Sita Street now operates as a Primary and High School.

#### **Loreto Convent, Strand, Cape Town**

The School opened on 1 February 1925 with 3 pupils. The number soon increased to 9. Over the years the number steadily increased. As a result of the high running costs the boarding school closed in 1974 and the school continued only as a primary school. Due to the decreasing number of Loreto Sisters, the Sisters entrusted the continuation of Loreto Primary School to a Board of Governors in 1989. The first lay principal was Miss Athena Athanasiadis. There were approximately 140 pupils at this time. In 1995 the Grade R class opened. In 2004 the status of the school changed to Public on Private Property.

In 2013 permission was granted by the Loreto Sisters to incorporate Loreto Convent into the existing school building. By means of extensive renovations and alterations, the school is able to accommodate two classes per grade. The carrying capacity of the second class is 22 children in the Foundation Phase and 24 in the Intermediate and Senior Phase. Currently the school has 445 children.

In 2021 Loreto House became part of the school. Loreto House accommodates the Grade R and 1 classes.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, Loreto Strand celebrated her Centenary year.

#### **Loreto School Queenswood, Pretoria**

A second school opened in Pretoria in 1972 and occupied its premises in Hillcrest. This school was known as Hillcrest Convent and was both a Primary School and a High School. Due to the expansion of the University of Pretoria, this school moved in 1976 to its current location and was renamed, Loreto School Queenswood. The school now operates as a Primary School.

There is a great richness in the diversity of the three Loreto Schools in South Africa – Queenswood has the mountain, Strand has the background of the sea and Nana Sita has the historical significance and Cathedral. There are however differences in uniforms, facilities, programs, slogans and that both Loreto schools in Pretoria are Independent schools and Loreto Strand is a Public School on Private Property, but we are unified by prayer, our school badge, and the heart of our schools which lies in the values of Mary Ward and the practice of the spirit of Ubuntu.

Our three South African schools belong to the Catholic Schools Office (Western Cape and Gauteng) which assists in the planning and implementation of networking amongst all Catholic schools as well as provides schools with the formation of spirituality and religious education.

“To love the poor, persevere in the same, live, die and rise with them”.

## 4. The Loreto Crest



This beautiful and familiar crest is the badge that Loreto learners wear, since it distinguishes them as children of Mary. The words **Maria Regina Angelorum**, mean Mary Queen of Angels.

The place of honour in the design is **the Holy Cross**, the emblem of our salvation to take the Lord's invitation to take up our cross daily and follow him through the difficult paths of our lives.

**The Sacred Heart** crowned with the cross helps us realise that love is stronger than death, and from this we may draw the strength we need to deal with sorrow and difficulties.

**The heart of Mary**, our Queen and Mother, encourages us to imitate her and embrace generously all that is needed for our salvation.

**The Anchor** of Hope is placed in our hands to keep us firm and steadfast amidst the storms of life.

**"Cruci dum spiro fido"**, the words that mean – 'In the Cross, while I breathe, I trust'.

## 5. Loreto School Song

Our school is proudly built  
On the values of Mary Ward  
Her God-filled life  
Was like a flourishing tree  
She found her walk with God  
Brought balance in life.  
She had integrity,  
This servant of God.

Put your faith in Jesus Christ  
Have respect for one another  
Be an instrument of Peace,  
Love your neighbour as yourself.

God bless our school today,  
We are grateful  
For what you gave  
Make us obedient to your call.  
Help us to love you  
With all our hearts.  
In you we live and move  
And have our being.

Put your faith in Jesus Christ  
Have respect for one another  
Be an instrument of Peace,  
Love your neighbour as yourself.

Loreto School, Loreto  
Praise the Lord give him glory.  
Loreto School, Loreto  
Praise the Lord give him glory.

## 6. The Mary Ward Compass – Rooted, Responsive, Relevant

# ROOTED RESPONSIVE RELEVANT

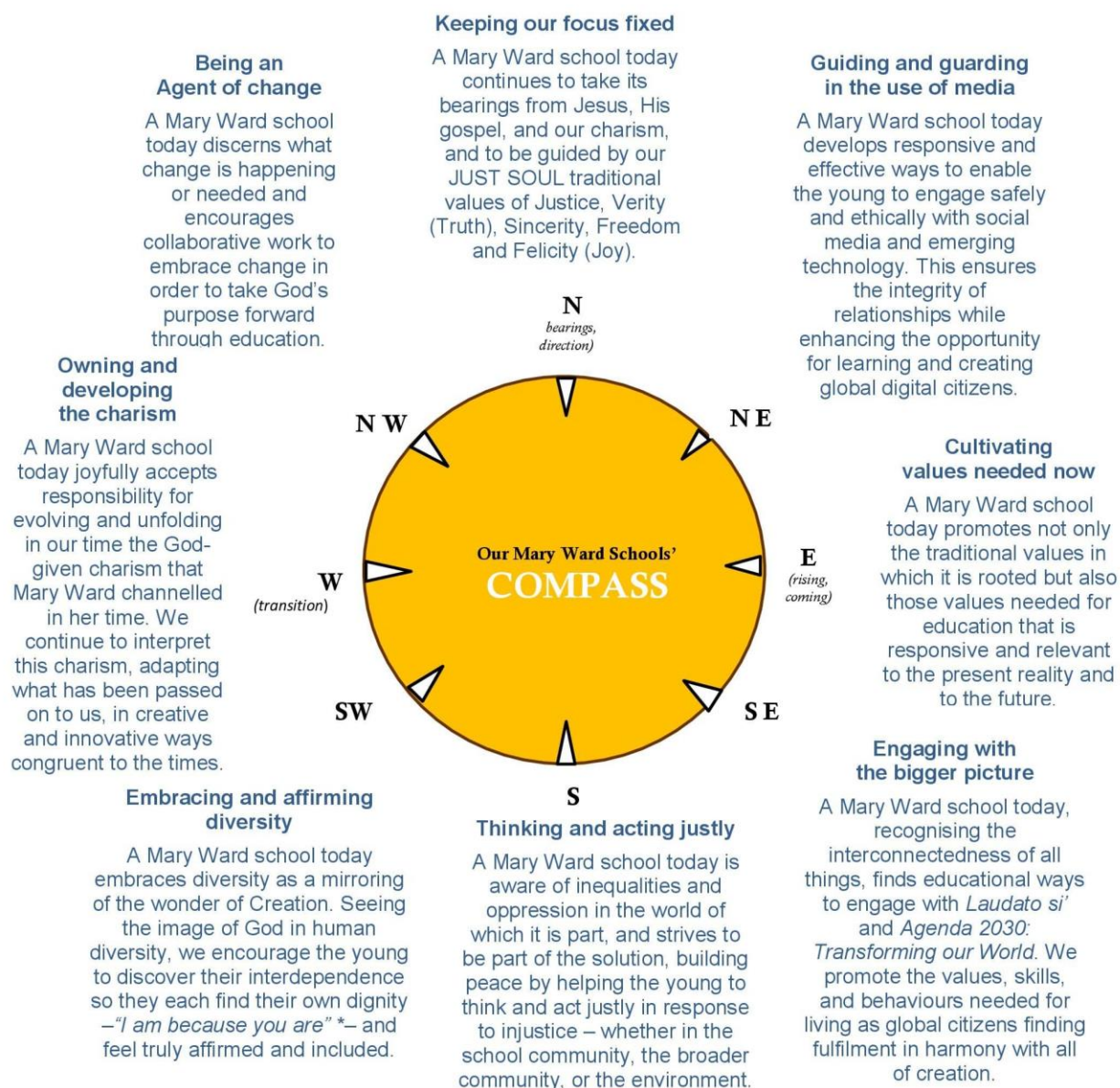
### Vision Statement

A Mary Ward school today affirms the centrality of the person of Jesus. His gospel and our particular charism offer to education a profound way of being, acting as a positive force for transformation of lives.

### Mission Statement

Building on the foundation of our God-given charism, we seek to invest in the holistic growth of our school community in a deeper understanding and living of the gospel.

### Taking our direction from our Mary Ward Schools' Compass.



## 7. Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

The importance of promoting the values of Justice, Peace, and Integrity in Creation is highlighted in our Mary Ward Compass. **JPIC** urges us to recognise the interconnectedness of all things and to find innovative ways in our schools to engage with **Laudato Si'** Pope Francis' Encyclical on Care of our common home the Earth; as well as the **Sustainable Development Goals**. By cultivating the values, skills, and behaviours needed to live as global citizens, learners in our schools can find fulfilment by living lives in harmony with the environment.

JPIC emphasises the right relationships with God, with our brothers and sisters today and tomorrow, with nature and with ourselves. It encourages us to transform our lifestyles, to use resources with moderation and to bring economic policies in line with sustainable environmental goals.

In partnership with an Ecumenical outreach from the Church to all organisations of Faith, the cry for justice and peace can be responded to, thus renewing the face of the earth now and for the future.



Figure 1: JPIC Image by Ana Morales rscj

## 8. Loreto at the United Nations

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ) work in collaboration at the United Nations where the goal is to promote a more humane, just and sustainable world.

Our NGO focus is mainly on Women and Children within the context of Social Development, Sustainable Development and Human Rights. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a powerful tool in mobilising our energies in education, awareness raising and advocacy, providing a cohesive framework for our efforts. Specific areas of involvement are:

- Eradication of poverty
- Gender equity
- Elimination of gender-based violence
- Access to quality education and health
- Elimination of trafficking of human persons
- Financing for development
- Care for the environment

These areas are in alignment with the GC14 Calls and Laudate Si. The IBVM and CJ is supported by an international advisory group and liaise closely with justice animators and networks within their provinces.

<https://www.loreto.org.au/justice/justice/loreto-at-the-u-n/>

## 9. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals also known as Global Goals are a collection of seventeen interlinked objectives designed to serve as a 'shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future". UN 2015



## **10. Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home**

Laudato si', mi' Signore" - "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail' (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

Nothing in this world is indifferent to us.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

## 11. Religious Dimension of the School Life

“God’s glory is shown in each person who is fully alive”

Based on the values and vision of our founder Mary Ward, and true to the tradition established by the IBVM order, the formation imparted at Loreto gives priority to the integration of the spiritual, intellectual, moral, physical, and emotional development of the individual person of the child. Relationships within Loreto education are characterised by the values of Sincerity, Freedom, Justice, Truth and Joy.

The Loreto School community is part of the local and universal Catholic Church, in a multi-faith school environment where religious celebrations and experiences nourish and deepen the spirituality of each and every person and emphasise the values shared by the different faith traditions.

The Religious Education at Loreto aims

- to teach about religion, so that the religious dimension of life is understood and valued
- to educate through religion, to form and inform the conscience, enabling sound moral choices
- to ready Loreto children for religion, enabling them to live their religious tradition in a committed and meaningful way.

In order to bring some measure of relief to those who suffer under oppression and poverty, Loreto is committed to helping those in need.

## **12. Academic**

Loreto has a proud tradition of academic excellence, achieving consistently outstanding results in Language and Mathematics.

Loreto children participate in external competitions such as the AMESA Mathematics Challenge and the SACEE Language Challenge. Internal competitions are run throughout the year to maintain the high academic standards.

A Bookworm programme is run for learners in the Foundation phase who experience difficulties with reading.

## **13. Sport**

A Sports' Coach is employed to coach all the boys' sport. Learners from Grade 1 to 7 participate. Loreto teams take part in Inter-Catholic Schools' and inter-school league competitions.

Summer Sport: Athletics, Tennis, Cricket, Chess, Karate

Winter Sport: Netball, Soccer, Chess, Karate.

## **14. Sport Houses**

### **Ward House**

Named after our Founder Mary Ward (23.01.1585 – 30.01.1645). The colour gold/yellow represents this House.

### **Jolivet House**

Named after a Loreto (IBVM) Sister, Sr Margaret Jolivet who arrived in Pretoria from Ireland in 1878 and established the first Loreto School on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1878 together with two other Loreto Sisters. The colour green represents this House.

### **Lima House**

Named after a Loreto (IBVM) Sister, Sr Rosaleen O' Kane who took her religious name from Saint Rose of Lima, Peru. Sr Rosaleen left Loreto House, Strand and returned to Ireland in 2017. The colour red represents this House.

## **15. Cultural Activities**

A part-time Art Educator and a full time Music Educator are employed by the school. The school performs a concert every third year in which every child participates.

## **16. Activities**

- Junior and Senior Choir
- Private music tuition is offered in piano, recorder and guitar. Please contact the School should you wish your child to participate.
- Drama
- Poetry Eisteddfod

## **17. Aftercare**

Aftercare is offered until 17:30 daily during the school term. Parents wishing to make use of this facility, are requested to contact the school.

## **18. Outreach Programmes**

- Under His Wings: Food kitchen in Sir Lowry's Pass
- Animal Welfare Society (AWS) Gordon's Bay
- Bottle tops and bread tags
- Sleeping Bag Outreach
- TH Project of Love – Reaching out to Cancer Warriors
- Somerset West Family Shelter

