



Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, a Year 7 –12 Catholic independent girls' school in the Mercy tradition, is a thriving and exciting place to be. I invite you to read about the College, visit our website and come and see us on one of our Open Days.

The College community is proud to embrace our rich history and tradition which sees us deeply thankful to the Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta for their vision in creating a school committed to the values of mercy and justice.

In true Mercy spirit we live our present and celebrate our achievements. Our students, supported and challenged in their learning by committed and professional staff, strive to become confident and independent learners. As a community we come together in liturgies and Chapel to pray and in assemblies to acknowledge our many and varied successes.

At OLMC we recognise our responsibilities to educate our students to anticipate the challenges of an unknown future. Our learning environment embraces new technologies. More significantly we strive to ensure that the young women who leave us are committed to a future in which they will live fulfilled lives true to the Mercy values of the College.

I trust you enjoy discovering OLMC and look forward to welcoming you to our College community in person.

**Kitty Guerin**  
*Principal*



*"No work of charity can be more productive or good to society than the careful instruction of women."*

[CATHERINE MCAULEY]

OLMC Parramatta was founded by a group of insightful and dedicated Mercy Sisters from Callan, Ireland, who were determined to provide a wide range of opportunities for their students which could lead to work outside the home or further education – radical possibilities for girls of the late 19th century.

The College was one of the first schools to register for the Bursary Endowment Act of 1912, which

introduced the more competitive exam orientated approach to education of the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate years.

Ever since then OLMC has continued to keep pace with educational development. When the Education Reform Act (1990) mandated compulsory study in technology, OLMC reacted quickly by increasing the number of computers available for student use as well as building

a Technology Block. OLMC continues to seize the initiative in technology by ensuring that both staff and students have access to, and training in, this developing aspect of 21st century education.

The history of OLMC Parramatta is also unique in that for 115 years of its life it had seven women hold the position of Principal, all of whom were Sisters of Mercy. This has meant that Mercy heritage and traditions are

still very much part of the current school community and valued by all. There has been a transfer of the day to day running of the College from the Sisters to the College Board and College Executive, including the appointment of the first Lay Principal. However the College continues to be influenced and inspired by the values and traditions of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, and the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy.

# EMBRACE

# OLIVE

*"God can bend and change, form and reform any of his creatures to fit them for the purposes he designs."*

[CATHERINE MCAULEY]

OLMC girls have wonderful opportunities open to them so that they can participate in and contribute to the life and development of the College. No day is ever the same as the next. Formal classroom time is complemented by a diverse range of spiritual, academic, social, cultural, sporting and leadership activities which combine to create a balanced educational experience.

OLMC girls are aware of and appreciate their past, understanding that they are the custodians of the College's heritage.

OLMC girls like to celebrate their faith with much colour, commitment, movement and enthusiasm.

OLMC girls welcome diversity of opinion, colour, creed, experience, ability, and spirituality.

OLMC girls care and are not afraid to give a voice to those who have none.

OLMC girls enjoy exploring for personal growth and sharing their self-discovery with their peers.

OLMC girls are not afraid to strive and to excel although the way ahead is unknown.

OLMC girls are leaders.

OLMC girls are doers and thinkers.

OLMC girls are learners and teachers.

OLMC girls are respectful.

OLMC girls are joyous.

OLMC girls are friendly and love to laugh.



*"Let us fit the young women for Earth without unfitting them for heaven."*

[CATHERINE MCAULEY]

Just like the group of pioneer Mercy Sisters who realised that the future success of their students lay in their own ability to adapt and modernise, so too the staff of OLMC in the early years of the 21st century realise that our students live in a changing world. In response the College is undertaking the development of a Master Plan that will guide the direction of the College over the next 10 years. All groups within the OLMC community – Sisters of Mercy, exstudents, staff, parents and students – have been consulted for their views about the future direction of the College. Such thorough preparation will ensure that OLMC is anticipating and planning for the future needs and demands of its students.

Part of this preparation includes the redesign of the curriculum, which will better meet the needs of the students in the 21st century by including an increased emphasis on technology as a learning tool. Bridging the gap between technology savvy teenagers and teaching staff at OLMC is a small group of teachers who have been designated as 'ICT Integrators'. As well as completing postgraduate study in this area, these teachers are working with all teaching faculties so that each teacher will be able to teach the students as effectively and meaningfully as possible, using the constantly developing technologies to enhance learning in the classroom.

# ANTICIPATE



## MISSION UNDERSTANDING STATEMENT

OLMC is an independent Catholic girls' college in the Mercy tradition, based on the Gospel values of mercy and justice.

OLMC encourages the spiritual, moral and intellectual growth of the individual.

OLMC recognises and values the uniqueness of each individual.

OLMC provides the environment in which students have the opportunity to become self-motivated and independent learners.

OLMC educates students to assume their role in society with confidence and to be initiators of change in that society, within the spirit of the Mercy tradition.

