

## St Margaret's celebration of Christmas

On the last day for the school year, students from Pre-Prep to Year 11 and staff gathered in the Philip Harris Gym within the new sports precinct to celebrate the school year with a special, interactive Christmas service.

The Reverend Susan Crothers-Robertson introduced the Christmas ABC story and student leaders took turns narrating the story using each letter of the alphabet.

“A is for Angel. The Angel Gabriel began the story telling Mary...”

“B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place. People travelled from far and wide to get to Bethlehem, which was not a big village.”

The primary students played an interactive role throughout the service each given a card representing either the Shepherds, Wise Ones or Angels.

During the story, when these words were heard, the students would respond. For example, the Shepherds would say “Let’s go see!”, the Wise Ones would shout “Look, a star”, and the Angels cried “Hallelujah!”

The candles of the advent wreath and the Christ Candle were lit during the service and traditional Christmas carols were joyously sung including Silent Night and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

Rev’d Susan concluded the service with this final blessing:

“May the creator of all bless us as we move into our holidays and come back ready for the new school year. May the Shepherds continue to be curious, may the Wise Ones continue to guide and may the Angels continue to celebrate. May the love that made the stars, be your guiding light. May the love revealed in Jesus be your hope and inspiration; and may the love of the ever-present Spirit, give you courage, joy and hope, now and for ever.”

Decorating the gymnasium was a Christmas tree adorned in brightly coloured paper angels. The angels were created by the primary students during Prayer Space earlier in the term and each carried a message of gratitude. Given the year, it was not surprising that COVID was top of mind for many students in their written expressions of gratitude with one stating: “The year has gone fast with COVID, everything was different, but it was still amazing.”

Later in the day, students participated in a festive display for the Christmas Interhouse Choral Competition.

St Margaret’s wishes all students, their families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a safe and rejuvenating holiday break and look forward to seeing you in 2021!