

A Word From Father John

Letters often come to me addressed to 35 Sutherland Street. Some are mine but most are for the school. The school received letters addressed to me at 35 Sutherland Street! The School, the Church, the Parish Centre, are all 35 Sutherland Street! I think that in the eyes of the people of Port and South Hedland, we are one.

In a parish it is great to have a school. In a school, it is great to be part of a parish. In the school, children receive their First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation (every two years). There are Family Masses and Class Masses. There is prayer to God each day.

I think St. Cecilia's is such a great school because in our school children have an experience of Church. Apart from school, many do not have much of an experience of Church, as many do not go to church on Sundays. In Australia only about 15% of Baptised Catholics go to Church regularly. So where do they experience "Church"?

What does the word "Church" mean? Church is not just a building. If our church building were to disappear in a cyclone the Catholic Church in Port Hedland would still be here. Church means a gathering. Our Catholic Church is the gathering of people who believe in the person of Jesus. He is the one that makes our gathering have meaning. He is the one that makes us the great school we are.

Fr. John

