



Congratulations to the class of 2020 on their excellent matric results!

FROM THE HEAD AND DEPUTY'S DESK

The year 2020 was not without its challenges and academic obstacles, but it has culminated in an outstanding set of matric results for the St Mary's class of 2020, proving that our students, staff and community are resilient, creative and determined.

There is much to celebrate in the results of 2020. All candidates obtained a Bachelor Degree pass that will allow them to proceed to university study. The class of 2020 obtained 427 distinctions – an average of 4.22 distinctions per candidate across all subjects. What is even more noteworthy is that all candidates obtained an aggregate of above 60% with 47% of the cohort averaging 80% or above. These results are the best in St Mary's 133-year history.

However, the story of the class of 2020 and its teachers is not best told in statistics. It is rather told in a series of images that will be imprinted on all who taught and learnt at St Mary's in 2020: the Form Vs returning alone to school during a particularly bleak June, masked, in tracksuits and hoodies ready to learn and remarkably

cheerful; the Tech staff helping the harassed English and Life Orientation teachers stream their lectures on Google Meets to five different venues; the support staff setting up the gym for prelims while carefully measuring the distance between each desk; and a sunset prizegiving in which the remarkable academic dedication and depth of the class of 2020 was recognised by delighted parents and staff.

The remarkable American essayist and poet, Adrienne Rich wrote that, "All new learning looks at first like chaos." The class of 2020 must have wished that times for their learning to be a less "new" and a little more ordered. Nevertheless, as these girls reflect on their remarkable academic achievements, they can be very proud of how many lessons outside of the curriculum they learnt last year and how they created academic coherence in a chaotic world.

DEANNE KING AND FELICIA TOBIAS
HEAD OF SCHOOL AND DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS

MATRIC RESULTS

HIGHLIGHTS

100% Pass
100% Bachelor Degree Pass
427 Distinctions (80%+)
118 A+ symbols (90%+)
29 placements in the top 1% in a subject
47 Pupils (47%) with an average of 80% or more
86 Pupils (85%) with an average of 70% or more
101 Pupils (100%) with an average of 60% or more
29 Pupils (29%) obtained 7 or more distinctions

Click this link to view full set of results: <https://www.stmarysschool.co.za/st-marys-school-matric-results-2020-1>

NSC 13-YEAR HISTORY OF MATRIC RESULTS AT ST MARY'S

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. of candidates	105	92	97	94	98	104	111	103	104	101	101	101	101
% Pass	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
% Bachelor Degree Pass	99	100	99	99	96	100	99	100	100	100	99	98	100
% Candidates who achieved distinctions	67	65	69	70	81	84	88	89	88	96	91	88	95
No. of Distinctions	279	232	323	270	303	423	378	364	358	414	426	330	427
Distinctions per candidate	2.66	2.52	3.33	2.87	3.09	4.07	3.41	3.53	3.44	4.10	4.22	3.27	4.23
Average > 80% (% cand.)	30	25	34	22	28	41	33	32	34	43	47	34	47
Average > 70% (% cand.)	72	67	58	57	67	78	73	78	80	82	82	74	85
Average > 60% (% cand.)	98	95	88	89	94	99	96	98	99	100	98	95	100
Mathematics (% uptake)	92	84	90	84	89	91	80	88	85	91	90	87	94
Mathematical Literacy (% uptake)	8	16	10	16	11	9	20	12	15	9	10	13	6
Advanced Programme Mathematics (% uptake)	9	5	10	13	15	29	21	23	16	21	22	14	20
Advanced Programme English (% uptake)	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	15	18	18	13	13	14	10	12	11
Physical Sciences (% uptake)	72	72	63	61	64	63	59	55	61	63	63	52	57
'Outstanding achievers'	3	1	6	4	2	5	3	2	0	2	1	3	3
'Commendable achievers'	3	2	2	2	1	4	1	3	4	2	2	3	2
Placements in Top 1% in a subject	35	13	40	28	24	45	29	27	16	34	27	44	29

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Then the disciples of John came to [Jesus], saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

- *Matthew 9:14-17 (NRSV)*

We began the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 17 February. Lent is a penitential season in preparation for our rising renewed, with Christ at Christ's resurrection, on Easter Sunday, on 4 April. The images of the unshrunk cloth patch, or of the old wineskin, are apt for this season. In what ways does God seek to renew us and fill us, and therefore what new cloth or wineskin are we each called to become, this Lent?

Jesus' initial response to John's disciples' question is that fasting is best suited for a time of mourning, but also that the time during which Christ was present with his disciples was a time of celebration, and not mourning. Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, to the extent that it is a time of making the necessary changes in our lives in order to better love both God and our neighbours. Given the impact of COVID-19 and consequential lockdown regulations on our nation and our world, I suggest one of the ways in which we can better love God and neighbour this Lent, is by helping each other notice the moments of joy, and hold onto hope, during hard times.

Let us focus on what we can celebrate – most notably today, our Matric results! Congratulations, Matrics of 2020.

REV. CLAUDIA COUSTAS
CHAPLAIN