

**Homily of Bishop Danny Meagher**  
**On the occasion of the Centenary of Sancta Sophia College**  
**Saturday 21 March 2026**

Congratulations to all associated with Sancta as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary.

Archbishop Kelly established Sancta in 1926 and asked the Sacre Coeur Nuns to offer leadership. They remained until 1991, when lay principals took over. I was here on Council in the early 2000's when Dr Marie Leech was Principal. At my last Council meeting we resolved to establish the Graduate House.

Presently Sancta is booming in every measure I can think of. Very importantly the academics are good, which of course is what you'd want in a University College.

I've always loved Sancta's motto - Walk in Wisdom. A motto chosen by those early Sacre Coeur Nuns.

In the scriptures, Wisdom was with God in the beginning, delighting in God and in the creation of the Universe in all its wonder. The scriptures say that Wisdom descends into holy souls, making them friends of God. After Pentecost, the early Christians noted the many gifts they received with the Holy Spirit alive in them, and prominent among the gifts was Wisdom.

You can have a lot of Knowledge but be lacking in Wisdom. Academic excellence is not enough to be wise.

What were those first Sisters getting at in choosing the motto for the College, "Walk in Wisdom"?

I think it has to do with love. The Sisters dedicated their lives to contemplating the Sacred Heart of Jesus - that is, the overwhelming love of God.

God is endlessly loving, merciful, kind and generous. We heard that in the Readings today. The Sisters themselves were given over to that love - that was their vocation. Also, they were very well educated - amongst the 23 first residents in 1926 were 3 sisters.

So, I think that to Walk in Wisdom is to be well grounded academically

and to be steeped in love.

A wise person knows themselves and knows the human heart in all its complexity and so will know what to say in any given situation.

Walking in Wisdom is to speak, humbly and gently and in a way that people listen.

It is to be generous and merciful and loving like God. Always ready to give.

I think walking in wisdom is being able to be still and listen to others. It is to know how to rest at the end of a day.

Wisdom expands the soul and engenders compassion.

I think that might be the challenge the Sisters set a century ago to the succeeding generations at Sancta.

Academic Excellence Yes.

But in good and loving hearts.

And if this is the kind of person we're really assisting to develop, we'll see Sancta graduates as leading community figures for years to come.