

**FAREWELL SPEECH OF THE PRINCIPAL
TO THE BATCH OF 2022, JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE**

Special Greetings to the outgoing Batch of 2022!

It is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude that I stand here to bid you farewell as you embark on yet another fascinating journey of your life. We are here to bid you farewell after a challenging yet successful completion of three peculiar and demanding years. Your 'never give up' stand enabled you reach this far.

After the initial uncertainties and confusion, together we all tried to tackle our functioning to the best of our abilities and with limited resources at that time. You had to adjust to an insular online mode of education. Your faculty members and the administration had to plan immediately, change tracks and execute the completion of your studies. Despite the lockdowns, the rigorous academic tasks, online classes and examinations, coupled with all the sadness and grief that you encountered, at the end of it all, you completed your journey at Jesus and Mary with remarkable achievements and am sure with some happy memories too. All of you persevered and have emerged successful.

I hope that these years had been productive and now you are better prepared to accept the many challenges that come with life. Despite the despair and misery in the world, I am encouraged by seeing your cheerful and exuberant faces, you display exemplary courage in surviving through the greatest ordeal of our times. I can tell, that your generation has sown the seeds of determination, fortitude and resolve, which make you the most resilient human beings of the Century. Continue to be cheerful, thankful and successful. Life is going to be what you make of it. It is what it is.

There will be ups and downs in your future, nevertheless you will achieve great things for yourselves and your families. What I wish to remind you is - make a difference in whatever you do, in the workspace that you will fit yourself in, in the families you will raise, in the lives of people you encounter, make that difference. There is no greater joy than to see yourself making a difference in the life of another person, to uphold the dignity of humanity and in turn advance the social order around you. Devout your energies to promote unity, integrity and peace, starting from within you, your families, your communities and the society at large. This troubled world needs more of calm and peace.

When you rise up the ladder of success, which I dream of, keep us informed and share your joys with us, particularly with your teachers who have shown keen interest in your growth and wellbeing. There can be nothing more fulfilling for us than to see our students succeed in life.

But also never fear to come back to us when you encounter adversities in life, remember Jesus and Mary College has its gates open for its students always and at any time ...the management and your teachers will be ever willing to help you face the challenges of life and support you towards achieving your goals to the best possible ways we can.

Let me thank the Student Council members, the President Elizabeth Regi, all the class representatives, society presidents and vice presidents who did their best and added meaning to your lives, on and off campus.

It is also my duty to thank all the Faculty members who also never gave up on you and journeyed with you beyond the classroom. I personally know of several of them who stood by you in your most difficult times. My sincere thanks to them!

A special word of thanks and appreciation to Prof. Sushila Ramaswamy the Student Council Convenor, Dr. Alka Marwah, Dr. Renu Gupta, and Ms. Megha Jacob. You have made our students' life on campus more expressive and meaningful.

As you step out of this campus permit me to offer up a prayer for you this moment.

*Creator of the Universe, I place before you our students
Keep them in your loving care as they step out of this college
I pray that they stand up with conviction for justice and peace
That they will act with integrity and innate wisdom
May their minds be enlightened with truth
That they live up to the ideals of this College
May they make service a way of life
We pray that your blessings be upon them
Let your guiding hand enable them follow the path of truth and duty. Amen!*

*God bless!
Thank you!*

*Prof. Sandra Joseph
Principal*