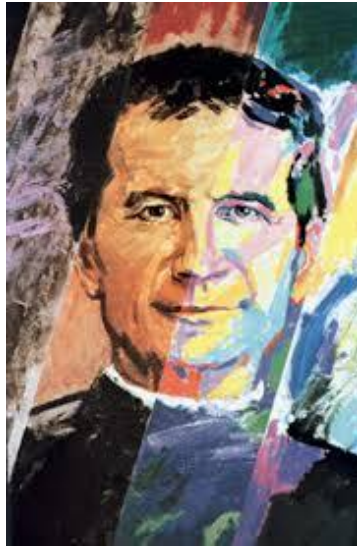


Saint John Bosco



Our school is named after Saint John Bosco. Catholic Schools are often named after saints from our Church history to provide us with witnesses of faith, Christian life and service.

John Bosco was born in Becchi, a hamlet in Northern Italy, near Turin on 16 August, 1815. John was two years old when his father died and he was reared in poverty by his pious and hard working mother, Margaret.

John was ordained a Priest in 1841. On December 8 1841 he met an orphan, and prepared him for first communion. Next he gathered a group of young apprentices, exploited in substandard workshops, and educated them in the Catholic faith. By 1856 Bosco had 156 youths in residence, and he set up his own school and workshops to teach young men a trade. He gained a reputation as an educator, and his work rapidly spread throughout Europe and South America.

John Bosco started his own religious order of priests and brothers. They were called the Salesians, after St Francis de Sales. An order of Salesian Sisters was started, too, with the help of Sister Mary Mazzarello.

John Bosco's work and mission was dedicated to the young, particularly the 'poor, abandoned and in danger'. He wanted to find and befriend society's young 'rejects'. A Salesians mission is 'first and foremost to the young, especially to those who are poor' (*Salesian Constitution, 26*).

In 1988, St John Bosco was declared by Pope John Paul II as *Father and Teacher of Youth*. The greatest lesson that John Bosco instilled in his students was to *Serve the Lord, at all times and everywhere in joy!* We are proud to have Saint John Bosco as our patron saint.