



# 650 new arrivals each year

EACH year about 650 babies are welcomed into the world in Calvary Health Care Riverina's St Gerard's Wing at Wagga.

The Italian-born St Gerard Majella (1726-1755) is the Patron Saint of Expectant Mothers.

Simon and Susan McFarlane from Bidgeemia south west of Lockhart had their third child arrive at Calvary but their link with St Gerard's Wing now spans two generations – Simon was born there 41 years ago.

A farmer, Simon naturally took a break from the gruelling harvest 120km away to be at the birth of his son Harvey – who arrived on Monday, November 18, at 11.25pm weighing in at 3.35kg.

The McFarlanes also have daughters Anastasia, 6, and Sienna, 4.

Back home at the farm with Harvey, Susan, an occupational therapist, said her experiences when having each of her three children at Calvary were "all positive".

"The staff at St Gerard's are lovely and since many of them are long standing they always remember you and even ask about the other children," she said.

"Midwife Ros Adisson delivered our first child and when we heard she was working we asked for her and she changed her schedule to deliver Harvey as well.

"It was a beautiful surprise to have a boy and I can't speak more highly of all the staff at Calvary."

David and Jenna Downey's first child Caitlyn arrived seven weeks early on Friday, November 15, and she will be in the Special Care Nursery of Calvary's St Gerard's Wing for at least another three weeks.

Jenna – a teacher at Illabo Public School – says that little Caitlyn "could not be in better hands" at Calvary.

"Caitlyn's early arrival was stressful for David and I but all the staff have been fantastic.

"The doctors have been great and the midwives are always really helpful and supportive," she says.

"Caitlyn will hopefully be home the week before Christmas – which will be the best gift ever."

St Gerard's maternity service incorporates a nursery, Delivery Suites and 12 maternity beds each in private rooms, which include four queen rooms to allow the parents to share the experience of caring for their new born.

The Wing's Level 2 Special Care Nursery has the capacity for six babies and is staffed by midwives with neonatal intensive care experience.

The Nursing Unit Manager is Registered Nurse Jennifer Weale.

Obstetricians Dr Ettie Joubert has worked at Calvary for five years, Dr Rehana Lulania for two years, Dr Nita Dhupar commenced this year and they welcomed Dr Mohamed Foda.



Susan McFarlane of Bidgeemia and her Obstetrician Doctor Rehana Lulania with Susan's third child and first son, Harvey.



Michael and Laura Napier with their first child Claire Millicent at St Gerard's. They received the care of Obstetrician Dr Ettie Joubert.



Obstetricians Dr Rehana Lulania, Dr Ettie Joubert, Dr Mohamed Foda and Dr Nita Dhupar in St Gerard's Wing.



David and Jenna Downey of Wagga with their first child Caitlyn – who arrived seven weeks early – in St Gerard's Wing's Special Care Nursery.



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