Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2010
Justice and Mercy: Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Mr Dinny Ryan (RIP)
I write with the sad news that Mr. Dinny Ryan passed away on Monday at the Camperdown Hospital. Dinny has been associated with the College since its establishment in 1973. His association continued with the College to well past retirement age, with the school community being able to celebrate his 90th Birthday at the end of last term.

Dinny had a great love of Mercy Regional College and he enjoyed immensely, his day-to-day interactions with the students. He will be sadly missed by all at the College. The strength of our community is only made possible by people like Dinny. A person who was 100% committed to the school and who was prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty. We have now lost a very valuable and tangible link to the founding of the school and the many successes that have been achieved along the way.

Dinny exemplified that ideal of being of service to others. He provided us with a wonderful example of humility and his life has been one of faith and service. Dinny’s quiet work in the background, each and every day, ensured the respect and admiration of all staff and students at the College.

Please keep Mary and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.
Federal Election
With the Federal election now set for Saturday, 21st August, it is important that our school families are aware of what Catholic Education is seeking from our Government in terms of future funding. As previously mentioned, the Prime Minister has commenced a review into the funding of schools. With no firm guarantee from either the Prime Minister or the Education Minister, Mr. Crean, that the current funding levels would be maintained there is a real danger that the funding for Catholic Schools will decrease. One can only hope that the rhetoric of the Prime Minister over the last few days, about having a world-class education system, translates into adequate, recurrent and capital funding for all schools.

I have listed below the six key commitments that Catholic Schools and Systems are seeking from the major political parties to ensure that Catholic Education will be sustainable into the future.

I am attaching to the newsletter a press release from Bishop Greg O’Kelly, Chair of the Bishops’ Commission for Catholic Education, with the welcome news that Mr Christopher Pyne Shadow Minister for Education has written to the Bishops’ Commission for Education, with confirmation that under a Coalition Government, schools would have future funding certainty. Bishop O’Kelly has sought similar assurance from the Australian Labour Party.

Also attached is a press release from Mr. Stephen Elder regarding the Coalition announcement on Wednesday of their plan to reduce the educational costs for parents. The Labour Party still remain silent on the question of funding for Catholic schools.

Sustaining Catholic Education in Australia into the Future
Election 2010 commitments sought from political parties include:

1. Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation. Catholic schools and systems are a large and genuinely national enterprise, educating one in five Australian children. They therefore require a solid basis for funding certainty - a direct relationship through Commonwealth legislation.

2. Catholic schools and systems from 2013 have, at the very least, access to the same funds, indexed to government school costs, as currently available. To allow schools and school systems to survive, general recurrent and targeted program funds for Catholic schools and systems in 2013 must be at least the same level of funds, indexed, as currently allocated.

3. Catholic systems have the capacity to distribute funds to schools according to need. Catholic systems must be able to retain their well-established structures to allocate funds in a flexible, responsive and transparent manner to best meet the needs of schools and students.

4. Funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism, to ensure that Catholic schools and systems are able to meet the rising costs of education. Indexation must be linked to government school recurrent costs via an index that measures rising costs and expectations.

5. Funding for students with disabilities must be increased towards parity with government school funding. The number of children with a disability enrolled at Catholic schools is rising substantially. Increased funding is required to ensure that these students are able to be educated to an excellent standard with appropriate dignity and respect.

6. Capital funding should be increased for educationally disadvantaged communities and areas of population growth. Catholic schools and systems are committed to serving students from educationally disadvantaged communities and from fast-growing communities and so seek increased capital funding to provide facilities and resources in these areas.

Additional Facts about Catholic Education
To assist with any discussion you may be having in the coming month with candidates for this election about the funding of Catholic Education I have provided below some facts about Catholic Education that may prove useful.

Catholic schools do more with less
Catholic schools have been providing a quality education for Australian children for over 180 years. There are 1700 Catholic schools in Australia, with an enrolment of almost 704,000 students. One in five Australian school students is educated in a Catholic school. In the upcoming funding debate and the Federal Election it is important to know this essential fact:

When all forms of government funding are considered (that is, both federal and state), Catholic school students receive substantially less funding per student than government school students.

As parents, teachers, students and friends of the Catholic schools sector, you are aware that some of this gap is made up by contributions from parents and parishes through fees and levies. However, Catholic schools strive to keep fees low so that schools remain accessible to all. No child is ever denied a Catholic
education because of their family's financial situation. Even when parent contributions are taken into account, on average, Catholic schools operate at about 85 per cent of the resourcing level of government schools. Any claims that Catholic schools get more government funding than public schools are transparently wrong and should be challenged.

Governments must support parental choice in education
All major political parties in Australia agree on the principle that parents must have the right to select the education of their choosing for their children.

A commitment to government funding for all students, regardless of where they go to school, is firmly entrenched in the Australian way of life and must be retained.

The Catholic education sector believes that this principle should be strongly supported in the 2010 Election. The Federal Education Funding Review must begin its work based on this general principle.

In this way, the Review can deliver a truly fair outcome for all students, whether they attend a government school, an independent school, or a Catholic school.

Students should not be penalised in terms of government funding because their parents choose to send them to a Catholic school which will provide them with a first class education steeped in the Catholic faith and ethos. Importantly, future parents must have the same capacity as current and earlier generations of parents to exercise their freedom of choice in schooling.

Importantly, future parents must have the same capacity as current and earlier generations of parents to exercise their freedom of choice in schooling.

Religious freedom paramount to Catholic schools
Commonwealth and State Government funding arrangements have always respected the identity, integrity and autonomy of the Catholic school.

The ability of Catholic schools to infuse their curriculum and school life with the Catholic faith and to form students in the Catholic ethos is fundamental to the mission of Catholic education.

An essential outcome of the Funding Enquiry must be that funding, compliance and accountability requirements support, rather than hinder or compromise, the authenticity or autonomy of the Catholic school. The major political parties must support this principle in the 2010 Election.

In this way, Commonwealth and State Governments will continue to actively support and encourage parental freedom of school choice for their children.

Election undertakings must guarantee funding security for Catholic schools
The Government funding review must deliver funding certainty
Catholic schools and school systems are a large and genuinely national enterprise, educating one in five Australian children. As such, they require a solid basis for funding certainty, set in Commonwealth legislation.

A key outcome of the funding review must be that Catholic schools and systems have a direct relationship with the Commonwealth Government, underpinned by legislation.

Furthermore, Catholic schools and systems have built an enviable reputation for being able to effectively disperse Government funds across the sector according to the areas of greatest need. In any new funding system, Catholic schools and systems must be able to continue allocating funds in a flexible, responsive and transparent manner, to best meet the educational and personal needs of students. To ensure an ability to meet the rising costs of education, funding levels must be indexed annually, using a transparent mechanism. And, because education costs rise at a rate greater than the Consumer Price Index, indexation must be linked to government school recurrent costs via a cost of schooling price index.

Students with disability must be supported
Catholic schools at all times seek to respect and nurture the God-given human dignity of all their students.

Students with disability are therefore especially welcomed into Catholic school communities, where all possible resources are directed towards helping these students to reach their full potential.

This ethos is reflected in enrolments, with the fastest growing category of students in Catholic schools from 1985 to 2008 being those with disability.

In 2009, there were 24,805 students with disability in Catholic schools which saw a rise of 1,590 students from the previous year.

To ensure that Catholic schools can continue to provide the best care and resourcing for the growing numbers of students with disability, a significant increase in Commonwealth funds for these students is required. All political parties and the Federal Funding Review must recognise and support this growing trend in Catholic schools in arriving at any new funding mechanism.

Catholic schools committed to serving those facing disadvantage
Catholic schools are committed to serving the poor, the marginalised and those students and families who face particular challenges, particularly in relation to disadvantage. The Church’s own research shows that Catholic schools need more financial help from
governments to remain a viable option from families that struggle financially. Bishops and Catholic educators are determined to seek out ways to redress this situation and to ensure that Catholic schools are able to reclaim their centuries-old reputation for serving students facing disadvantage. One important area where student enrolments have been increasing is in relation to Indigenous students. There were 14,261 Indigenous students in Catholic schools in 2009, a rise of 735 students from the previous year and a rise of more than 2000 students in the last decade.

In the upcoming election campaign, Catholic schools and school systems are seeking increased capital funding to provide facilities and resources to assist in serving students from educationally disadvantaged communities as well as areas of high population growth.

Catholic schools set the standard for delivery of Government funding
Catholic schools and school systems have developed a reputation for having low levels of bureaucracy and a high commitment to funding transparency. Catholic school systems deliver value for money. A comparatively decentralised system means that funds flow to where they are most needed, with a minimum of bureaucratic wastage. The Catholic sector offers a model in this regard for discussion in the Federal Funding Review. The Catholic model relies on significant parent support.

Catholic schools and school systems are also committed to transparency and accountability. They will continue to report as agreed on national output/performance parameters, through the appropriate authorities. They will continue to be financially accountable to governments, parents and the Church community.

The Federal Election and the Federal Funding Review must recognise the responsibilities of Catholic school authorities, dioceses and religious institutes for the effective management of Catholic schools.

Teachers - the jewel in the crown of Catholic education
The teachers in Catholic schools are one of the great strengths of the Catholic education sector.

More than 79,000 people were employed in Catholic schools in Australia in 2009. To provide context, this is larger than the entire Australian workforce involved in the manufacturing of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, or the same number of people that are employed across every single department store in Australia.

The Catholic education sector takes investment in teacher training and nurturing very seriously, acknowledging that good teaching is a crucial factor in good learning.

Teachers in Catholic schools are committed not only to the highest academic standards for students, but also to the development of the whole person, within the Catholic faith framework.

In supporting Catholic education, the Federal Education Funding Review will also be supporting the employment and vocation of teachers and other school employees.

Catholic schools - giving back to the community
Any debate on the amount of public money received by Catholic schools and school systems must also recognise what Catholic schools give back to their local communities in a variety of ways.

Catholic schools are a national asset, educating children at substantially less cost per student than public schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account.

And, while Catholic schools offer a good return for the taxpayer’s dollar, they also encourage their students to give something back to their community.

A key platform of the Catholic ethos in education is that Catholic schools educate young people in the notion of service and instill a commitment to social justice. They encourage practical action in social justice through a range of school-based programs.

These can range from high school students being part of the local Vinnies night patrol service for homeless people, to younger students taking part in environmental conservation programs in their community, or visiting the elderly in nursing homes.

Support for Catholic schools translates into support for local communities.

Staff Retreat
The later start to term three allowed the staff of Mercy Regional College to gather for a two day Staff Retreat. This retreat was facilitated by Fr. Elio Capra SDB.

This time away provided our staff with a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our role as Catholic educators working within Catholic Education. It was also a welcomed opportunity to spend some time on the religious dimension of our school.

Fr. Elio spent time looking at the sacramental community to which we belong. He commenced with the story of creation and linked this back to our lives as people with a vocation for teaching. We then moved to the example of Jesus and the need for us to continue to reflect upon the life of Christ in our vocation.

Fr. Elio’s presentation allowed us to easily access and increase our understanding of sacramental theology.
Congratulations
Last term Jack Kenna, Jack Kerr, Thomas Brett and Matthew Baxter ventured to Warrnambool to participate in the Schools Golf Competition. The boys were victorious on the day. Apparently all played very good golf – Congratulations.

Last week in the Warrnambool Standard Lewis Taylor was profiled after his selection for the Victorian Country under 15 side as well being named Captain. Well done Lewis!

I received a letter from the Cobden & District Community Bank congratulating four of our students – Rachel Hickey, Lizzie Smith, Emily Kemp and Emily Walsh for their good manners and courtesy. The girls assisted the bank with the 4th Birthday celebrations held on 14th July.

Enrichment Leave
I feel most privileged to have had the opportunity to study at the Boston College’s (a Jesuit University) School of Theology and Ministry, as part of their summer school program, during the past four weeks. The title of the course of study was Sharing Faith. The course explored contemporary, philosophical and theological principles that sustain the art of educating Christians in the faith, in religious education and pastoral contexts. The course enabled me to build on my own ministerial and educational experiences to envision effective approaches to religious education that are life giving. The course provided the opportunity for extensive reading and studying of documents, theories and methodologies that are necessary tools to develop a philosophy of religious education in our current society.

The course:
1. Examined the various dimensions that constitute the art of educating Christians in our complex society
2. Provided the opportunity to become familiar with contemporary approaches to religious education
3. Analysed the contexts where contemporary Christians live and thus envision appropriate ways to share the faith in such contexts
4. Enter in creative dialogue with contemporary educational theory

Class Masses for Term 3
During term 3 all homerooms will celebrate the Eucharist with one of our local parishes on a Friday morning. This provides us with the opportunity to strengthen our links with the parishes and also provide another opportunity for our students to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Year 9 to 11 homerooms will attend St Patrick’s Church Camperdown at 9.30am Mass. Our Year 7 & 8 homerooms will attend St Thomas’ Church in Terang.

I extend an invitation to parents and friends to also attend when their son or daughter’s homeroom is scheduled.

Our Year 12 class joined the St Patrick’s Parish Community last Friday along with the Prep class from St Patrick’s Primary School.

There was something most significant about our eldest students joining with those students who are just beginning their educational journey within a Catholic school and celebrating the Eucharist together.

Mass Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Friday 30th July</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
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<td>Year 7A</td>
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<td>Friday 6th August</td>
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<td>Year 8C</td>
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Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page 10, a reflection titled “Praise” written by Jim Quillinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

Andrew Watson
Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance
Applications for the 2nd instalment of EMA are being taken. Parent Applications close 6th August, 2010. Parents who applied at the start of the year DO NOT NEED TO APPLY AGAIN, only parents who have received a Health Care Card or Pension Card during the second half of the year need to fill out a form, but, your card must be valid from 12th July 2010, Forms are available from the College office.
**Mercy Awards**

**Senior School (Year 11 & 12) Mercy Award**

Tom O’Loughlan for always being Willing to help others.

**Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award**

Shaun Guy for his care and consideration of others during sad times.

**Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award**

Chloe Zentai for her willingness To volunteer to help others.

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**Exchange Students at Mercy**

During the last week of Term 2 we had four visiting exchange students from America spend some time in classes with the students of their host families. The girls had a very enjoyable stay in the district.

Thank-you to all the families who hosted an exchange student.

The girls' names and schools are listed below from left to right:

- **Alison Gonzales, Santa Margarita CALIFORNIA**
  - Atascadero High School

- **Angie Christensen, Rootstown OHIO**
  - Rootstown High School

- **Tracie Rice, Sheldon ILLINOIS**
  - Milford High School

- **Shelby Dunlap, Pleasant Hill MISSOURI**
  - Pleasant Hill High School

Here are some comments from Alison:

"Came here to study the Agriculture because I plan on majoring in agriculture and I like to travel."

"Really similar to America, kind of what I expected. More fun than what I thought it would be. I actually liked school here which I wasn’t sure on."

"I enjoyed the school because it was more laid back and everyone is really interested in you."

"Everyone is really nice, and they seemed to like my shoes"

"I was told it was going to be freezing but it hasn’t been as cold as I expected."

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**1st Camperdown Scout Group**

Openings are now available for All Age Groups

- Joey’s 6 to 8 years Mondays 4.30 till 6.00
- Cubs 8 to 11 years Mondays 4.30 till 6.00
- Scouts 10 to 15 years Mondays 6.00 till 8.00

At the Scout Hall Cnr Patton and Pope St Camperdown

Contact Leader In Charge Hayden McKellar on 0427932025
**Thursday 16th September**
Year 12 Trial English Exam

**Friday 17th September**
Term 3 concludes

**Monday 20th September**
Central Australia Trip commences

**Wednesday 29th September**
Central Australia Trip concludes

**Trinity Concert Band and String Ensemble Workshop and Performance at Mercy**
*Report: Janet Backhous*

Last Friday, 18th June, saw the Trinity Concert Band and the String Ensemble come to Mercy Regional College to workshop with Yr 9 music students from Mercy and String students from St Pats.

The Concert Band and String Ensemble rehearsed all morning and then gave a wonderful performance for our Year 7 students. The audience were moved by the beautiful music and amazed by the incredible professionalism of the musicians. It was such a treat to hear our young students play so well together.

This day was a fantastic opportunity for our students to work together with students from their Sister School, Trinity, make new friends and perform for our Year 7 students. The music was inspirational and I trust it will encourage our students to continue with their music tuition.

A big thank-you must go to Ms Kelly Kerr and Ms Rebecca Newman – Trinity Concert Band, Ms Johanna Latham – Trinity String Ensemble, Fiona Pugh – Mercy String Teacher and all the staff and students at Mercy who made the day possible.

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**Cobden Night Netball Assoc**
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010**
Monday 26th July
7.30pm

To be held at Cobden Tech School Gym

Followed by GENERAL MEETING to discuss new season competition, commencing soon, for A, A Reserve and B Grade.

All teams or individuals to register for new season at this meeting with team name, players, colours, contact delegate and phone number.

Contact Raylene Hallyburton for further information or apologies on 55951566.
From the Director of Teaching & Learning

CAREER NEWS
James Castles & Lisa Pope

Newman College, a residential college that is attached to the University of Melbourne is offering scholarships to help reduce costs of staying on residence/campus. If you are looking at living on residence next year especially going to the University of Melbourne then check the website - www.newman.unimelb.edu.au

Monash University also has some booklets out for scholarships check these, they are in Mr. Castles’ Office.

Hamilton and Alexandra College is doing revision lectures in the September school holidays Monday 27th Sept to Friday 1st Oct.

Monash University Yr 12 students thinking about attending Monash Uni in 2011, please see Mr. Castles for Scholarship Information.

The University of Ballarat will be visiting the school this Thursday at 2pm, conducting careers workshops. The workshops will be focusing on four different areas, Behavioural and Social Science in room, Business and Commerce, Nursing, and Sporting/Teaching Careers. Each Year 12 student will have the opportunity to attend two workshops. Please see Mr. Castles for an information sheet.

UPCOMING CAREER DAYS

July Events
July 15 - Deakin Nursing Information Session - Geelong Waterfront Campus
July 16 - Deakin Nursing Information Session - Warrnambool Campus
July 30 – 1 August: Herald Sun Careers Expo

University Open Days
University Open Days Coming Soon!!! We encourage students from Year 10 onwards to show an interest in attending one or two of these days to help make career planning easier.

Open Day Calendar 2011
Australian Academy of Design: 03 9676 9000 - Port Melbourne, 8 August
Australian Catholic Uni: 1300 275 228 Melbourne - 15 Aug Ballarat - 29 Aug

Australian College of Sports Therapy: 9670 3735 - Melbourne dates 8 & 11 Aug, 12 & 15 Sept

Box Hill Institute of TAFE: 03 9286 9222 - Elgar, Nelson & Whitehorse Campuses - 22 Aug

Deakin University: 1300 334 733 - Geelong- Waterfront & Waurn Ponds- 8 Aug - Warrnambool Campus - 15 Aug - Melbourne Campus, Burwood 22 Aug

Endeavour College of Natural Health: 03 9662 9911 - Melbourne- 25 July

The Gordon Institute of TAFE: 03 5225 0800 - Geelong- 19 – 23 July

Grenadi School of Design: 03 9663 0001 - Melbourne- 8 August

Holmesglen Institute: 03 9564 1555 - All campuses- 21 August

Institute for Design & Entertainment and the Arts (IDEA): 03 9600 2832 - Melbourne- 8 August

JMC Academy: 03 9696 4117 - Melbourne- 8 May

La Trobe University: 1300 135 045 - Mildura: 19 July – 10 Sept & 8 August. - Bendigo- 22 August - Shepparton- 13 August, (Evening) - Albury-Wodonga- 15 August - Melbourne (Bundoora) - 29 August

Monash University: 03 9902 6000- Berwick, Gippsland, Peninsula Campuses- 31 July- Caulfield, Clayton, Parkville Campuses- 1 August

NMIT (Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE): 03 9269 1200 - Epping- 22 August - Preston – 31 August

Photography Studies College: 03 9682 3191 - Southbank- 15 August

Qantm College: 03 9329 5790 - Melbourne – 19 June

RMIT University/ TAFE: 03 9925 2000 - City, Brunswick & Bundoora Campuses- 8 August

South West Institute of TAFE: 03 5564 8911 - Glenormiston- 30 May

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE: 03 5022 3983 - Mildura- 24 July

Swinburn University of Technology: 1300 275 794 - Hawthorn, Lilydale & Pahran Campuses- 15 August

University of Ballarat: 1800 811 711 - Mt Helen, SMB & Camp Street Campuses- 29 August

University of Melbourne: 1800 801 662 - Parkville & Victorian College of the Arts & Music- 15 August - Dookie- 15 August

Victoria University/ TAFE: 03 9919 4000 - Footscray Park- 8 August

Whitehouse Institute of Design: 03 9600 3625 - Melbourne, 8 August

William Angliss Institute of TAFE: 03 9606 2111 - Melbourne- 8 August

Please see flyer on page 11 titled “Careers Info – at Call”.

For more information, please feel free to email the Careers teacher on info@mercy.vic.edu.au.
Outdoor Ed – Grampians Camp
James Castles

Attached are a few photos from the Unit 3/4 Grampians Camp which was held at the end of last term.

The group was well behaved and a pleasure to take away.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE
Re: Central Australia Tour

There are three places available on the Central Australia Tour in September. If parents would like their child to go on this trip, could they contact the College office asap.
We are probably familiar with the story of Jesus travelling from Galilee through Samaria to Jerusalem when he encounters ten lepers. They kept their distance but called, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!" When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." While the ten were going to the priests, they were healed. Only one returns, praising God loudly, we are told and he bowed down in gratitude at Jesus' feet. Jesus said, "Ten were healed; where are the other nine? This man is not even a Jew! Is he the only one who came back to give praise to God?" (Luke 17:11-19)

Today gratitude and praise are often in short supply, yet we are told that the afterlife is a place where we will "offer unending praise". While that may not appear to be very exciting, in reality life is a preparation for that stage – eternal life is where we will be at our most fulfilled, it will be where we are most complete, most happy. And it is all about offering unending praise!

In a sense, we are at our most genuine when we praise – we are truly authentic – we offer genuine praise when there's nothing in it for us. Learning to praise God begins by learning to praise God in others, in God's creation and in God's purpose. John reminds us of this rather starkly when he wrote: If anyone says "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. (1 Jn 4:20). Pope Benedict writes that Saint John's words should be interpreted to mean that love of neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God. (Deus Caritas Est #6)

He adds: Then I learn to look on this other person, not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern ... (Deus Caritas Est #18)

It is through contact with our neighbours, through our fellow men and women, that we learn to love and praise God. One of the best ways in which we respond to this 'interior desire for a sign of love' or concern or affection or respect is through praise. Praise is unselfish, generous, it is encouraging, it means we admire the other, the other's actions or gifts, that we have put aside envy or jealousy, criticism or sarcasm – that we are genuinely pleased and happy for that person. While that may seem easy, it is a lifetime journey.

There would be few people who would not thrive in an atmosphere of generous, kind and thoughtful appreciation. Affirming others is uplifting, encouraging to the person but it is also a source of growth for ourselves. We become less self focused, less self absorbed. Offering praise helps us focus on what is going well. It is not only children who need praise and encouragement to grow and develop. We all do, no matter what age we may be. Jesus appears genuinely surprised that only one leper bothered to return to give thanks and praise. But that is all too common – it is so easy to take things for granted, to be envious, to even try to bring the other down – the Tall Poppy Syndrome we so often hear about. When we see an act of courage, something bravely attempted or something well done (large or small), do we speak up about it? Do we take the time to praise kindness, creativity and thoughtfulness. Genuine praise goes beyond 'exterior appearances', genuine praise shows that we really do admire what the other person has done, what quality they may have, what skills or talents, how generous they may be. It is so easy to retreat to envy or sarcasm to cover our own inability to be generous, to cover our envy.

One of the reasons why learning to praise can be difficult is simply because we find it difficult to receive praise ourselves. Doubt about our own self worth, our own dignity and giftedness can make praising others well nigh impossible. Some find it difficult because they have been raised in homes where criticism was all too common or sarcasm was used as a means of control. It's hard to be happy and to feel good about ourselves when we don't feel very good about anything or anyone around us. Sometimes it is hard to admire and, even more to say it. Why do they have all the luck? Why can't I do this or that? But if I go through life bitter, over-critical, and resentful for the way things have turned out, how can I ever begin to rejoice in the wonder and beauty of others, or in God's creation or purpose?

Our path to God is through our neighbour. Closing our eyes to our neighbour means closing our eyes to God – praising our neighbour, admiring what they do when it deserves praise leads us to a closer relationship and appreciation of them...and of God. To move towards the day when we can "offer unending praise" means that we have trained ourselves to look outwards, to appreciate those around us, to give thanks for their gifts and talents, to discover in them the wonders of their Creator. It is to look inwards and, in the words of Pope Benedict, to perceive in ourselves that interior desire for a sign of love, of concern ... Giving and graciously receiving praise brings us closer to God.

Regards
Jim Quilliman

Phone: 0401 933 023
Email: jquilliman@dcsci.net.au

Praise
22 June 2010
It’s never too early!

All Mercy Regional College Year 7-12 students and parents are encouraged to attend one or both of our huge careers information evenings. . .

CAREERS INFO – AT CALL!

Careers information for all school communities in the Corangamite and Moyne shires

Wednesday 11th August (Week 5, Term 3)
@ Mortlake College - 6.30pm to 8.30pm

OR

Wednesday 18th August (Week 6, Term 3)
@ Cobden Technical School – 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Thanks to the support of local businesses and organisations, you will be able to find out about many careers, including:

* Sport and Recreation
* Accounting
* Nursing
* Agriculture/Dairying
* Veterinary Science
* Financial Planning
* Transport and Logistics
* Local Government

* Pharmacy
* Banking
* Education
* Environment
* Automotive
* Electrical
* Building
* Allied Health

* Engineering
* Forestry
* Paramedics
* Police
* Hospitality
* Plumbing
* Tourism
* Legal

• Plus Deakin University and South West TAFE for tertiary options, MEGT (Australia) and WestVic Staffing Solutions for apprenticeship and traineeship information while Vince Callaghan will discuss the financial issues related to tertiary study at the Mortlake evening.

Free courtesy buses will run from Terang, Noorat and Derrinallum to the Mortlake evening on August 11th, and from Timboon, Camperdown and Simpson to Cobden on August 18.

Select the careers you want to know about. Selection sheets will be given to students at all four schools in the third and fourth weeks of Term 3.

All inquiries to your careers teacher – James Castles – or to Kelvin White (South West LLEN) Contact: 0429 921 876

[Logo]
There have been mixed messages in the media about school funding. Here are the facts about the way funding is allocated to Catholic schools in Australia.

**FACTS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

- Catholic schools have been providing a quality education for Australian children for over 180 years.
- There are approximately 1700 Catholic schools in Australia, with an enrolment of almost 704,000 students – that’s 20% of all Australian school students.
- Two out of every five Catholic schools are located outside of Australia’s major cities.
- In Australia, the Catholic school system employs over 78,000 people. This is more people than the entire Australian workforce involved in the manufacturing of motor vehicles, or the same number of people that are employed across every single department store in Australia.

**FUNDING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

- Catholic school students receive significantly less government funding than students in government schools.
- Some of this gap is made up by contributions from parents and parishes through fees and levies, however Catholic schools strive to keep fees low so that schools remain accessible.
- No child is ever denied a Catholic education because of their family’s financial situation.
- On average, Catholic schools operate at about 85% of the resourcing level of government schools, even when parent contributions are taken into account.

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**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PER SCHOOLING SECTOR**

- Other non-government schools 14%
- Catholic schools 20%
- Government schools 66%

**AVERAGE RESOURCING LEVELS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Government Schools</th>
<th>Catholic Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State and federal</td>
<td>$12,639</td>
<td>$3,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$2,012</td>
<td>$5,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*National Report on Schooling 2008*
MEDIA RELEASE

FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ AM

The Bishops Commission for Catholic Education welcomes written confirmation from Christopher Pyne that, under a Coalition Government, schools would have future funding certainty. Bishop O’Kelly calls for similar assurances from the Australian Labor Party.

“Catholic school authorities will particularly welcome Mr Pyne’s undertaking that a Coalition Government would seek to ‘enhance’ funding arrangements from 2013”, said Bishop Greg O’Kelly, Chairman, Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

“The Catholic education sector looks forward to its engagement over the next twelve months with the Gonski Committee set up by Prime Minister Gillard to review funding for all schools”, said Bishop O’Kelly.

“Ms Gillard said in her 15 April speech to launch the Gonski inquiry that ‘no school will lose a dollar of funding [from 2013] in the sense that their school budget per student will not reduce in dollar terms’. The new Minister Mr Crean confirmed this in The Australian today: funding in actual dollar terms will not decrease.

“However, the actual outcome for some hundreds of Catholic parish and regional primary and secondary schools is that their funding may be frozen in real dollar terms for several years from January 2013”, said Bishop O’Kelly. “If this scenario came to pass, the viability of some Catholic schools would clearly be under threat. Basic school running costs increase by at least 5% each year, but grants could be frozen at 2012 levels.

“For the past week I have been seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Crean to clarify this matter”, said Bishop O’Kelly. “We agree that the proposed review of funding for all schools is timely. We appreciate Minister Crean’s commitment to seek increased funding for schools overall. But the prospect that funding for some Catholic schools may be frozen from 2013 is clearly a matter of great concern”.

ENDS

Contact
Dr Bill Griffiths 0488 057 660
CEO, National Catholic Education Commission, Canberra
Wednesday 21 July 2010

Catholics welcome tax rebate for school fees

The Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Stephen Elder, said the Coalition should be congratulated for their plan to reduce education costs for parents announced today.

“There are many Catholic families who make a financial sacrifice to send their children to a Catholic school. Today’s announcement by the Coalition to increase the rebate and include school fees will give genuine support to these families,” said Mr Elder.

“The rebate for special education costs for children with disabilities is especially welcome.”

The Coalition’s announcement follows their earlier commitment that funding for Catholic schools beyond 2012 will keep pace with government school costs.

However, even with this commitment and including fees paid by parents, there will still be a resources gap between needy Catholic schools and better resourced government schools.

“The Labor party now needs to provide funding security to Catholic families with a commitment that government funding for Catholic schools will keep pace with rising costs into the future.”

“Victorian Catholic schools receive 37% less per student in total government funding than government schools and Catholic schools know that our future would be at risk if government funding was reduced further,” Mr Elder said.

“Catholic schools and parents across Victoria cannot afford a funding freeze.

Further information from David Ahern, Catholic Education Office Media, on 9267 0228 or 0418 351 383.
## MRC/ST PATS  CANTEEN PRICE LIST 2010

### HOT FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COBB LOAF MEAT PIES/PASTIES/CHICKEN PIES</td>
<td>$3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUSAGE ROLLS</td>
<td>$1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIBBLE PIES</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEESE &amp; VEGETABLE SCROLLS</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAM/PINEAPPLE PIZZA</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASAGNE/SPAGHETTI</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIM SIMS STEAMED</td>
<td>$0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOT DOG IN BREAD</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ROLL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET CHILLI ROLL (2 strips, lettuce, cheese)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSTD SANDWICH (H AM OR CHICKEN &amp; CHEESE)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSTD FOCCACIA   SMALL $3.00 LARGE</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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### ROLLS & SANDWICHES

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SALAD ROLL/SANDWICH (chicken or ham)</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALAD ROLL    no meat *avocado 50c extra</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGG &amp; LETTUCE SANDWICH</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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</table>

### FRUIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPLE/BANANA</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUIT SALAD –FRIDAYS ONLY IN TERM 1 &amp; 4</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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</table>

### CAKES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DONUTS SMALL</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE choc/straw icing</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONUTS JAM</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUFFINS choc chip or apple</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>COFFEE SCROLL</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANILLA SLICE</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOMEMADE HEDGEHOG</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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### DRINKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIG M’S SMALL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUIT BOX</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUENCH MINERAL WATER VARIETIES</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOFT DRINK CANS- DIET VAR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFT DRINK 600ML -DIET VAR</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>COOL RIDGE WATER 600ML</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRESHA ORANGE /APPLE JUICE sml$2.00  lge $2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOCUS FLAVOURED WATER VARS sml$1.20  lge $2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIPPS ICED CHOC/COFFEE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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### SNACKS

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LICORICE /RASPBERRY STRAPS</td>
<td>$0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNFRUITS</td>
<td>$0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POTATO CHIPS 28G VARS</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTELLA/OVALTINES</td>
<td>$0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTER MENTHOLS/SOOTHERS</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUPITER BAR</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMEMADE JELLY IN CUP WITH SPOON</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROZEN FRUIT TUBES 50c FRZN YOGHURT</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMONADE/RASPBERRY ICYPOLY</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SALADS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SALAD BOWL S4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTUCE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOMATO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEESE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEETROOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROUTONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYO</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
23rd July, 2010

Dear Parents,

ENROLMENT INTENTIONS FOR 2011

We are currently planning for the year ahead in terms of staffing, budgeting and timetabling arrangements for all students currently enrolled at Mercy Regional College.

I would ask that you fill out the form on the back of this letter regarding your enrolment intentions in 2011 for your child(ren). Please print their name and year level, then tick the most appropriate box regarding their intentions in 2011.

Do not include your son / daughter if they are currently in Year 12 as they will be leaving the College.

This is of course a statement of intention and in no way final and binding, but we do need an indication which is as accurate as possible at this stage, of what your child(ren) will be doing.

I also ask that you inform me if a change occurs to the information you provide to us, as this will directly affect our planning for next year.

Please return this form to the College office by no later than Friday 13th August, 2010

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL
2011 ENROLMENT INTENTIONS
(Please fill out a separate section for each child you have at Mercy)

STUDENT NAME: ___________________________ CURRENT YEAR LEVEL: ______
A. □ Returning to MRC in 2011
B. □ Attending another school
C. □ Leaving school for employment
D. □ Leaving school to do TAFE course
E. □ Leaving school for an Apprenticeship
For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

STUDENT NAME: ___________________________ CURRENT YEAR LEVEL: ______
A. □ Returning to MRC in 2011
B. □ Attending another school
C. □ Leaving school for employment
D. □ Leaving school to do TAFE course
E. □ Leaving school for an Apprenticeship
For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

STUDENT NAME: ___________________________ CURRENT YEAR LEVEL: ______
A. □ Returning to MRC in 2011
B. □ Attending another school
C. □ Leaving school for employment
D. □ Leaving school to do TAFE course
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For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

STUDENT NAME: ___________________________ CURRENT YEAR LEVEL: ______
A. □ Returning to MRC in 2011
B. □ Attending another school
C. □ Leaving school for employment
D. □ Leaving school to do TAFE course
E. □ Leaving school for an Apprenticeship
For (B) (C) (D) (E) please give further details.

PARENT(S) SIGNATURE: ___________________________

PARENT(S) SIGNATURE: ___________________________

Please sign this form before you return it to the College office by Friday 13th August, 2010.