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.

Nathan McLeod (RIP)
The Mercy Regional College community was deeply saddened to hear of the tragic death of Nathan, a student at Mercy Regional College from 2002 to 2007, last week, as a result of a car accident a life far too young to be lost.

The College extends to Chris, Sharon and Bernard our deepest sympathies and assures them of our prayers and thoughts. We also particularly remember Nathan’s aunt, Mary McLeod, who has been a close colleague for many years, as a teacher at St Patrick’s Primary.

Nathan’s entry into eternal life was celebrated at the College on Saturday evening, with vigil prayers and then the celebration of a Requiem Mass, in thanksgiving of Nathan’s life, in the deChantal Stadium on Sunday afternoon. A testament to the respect and esteem to which Nathan was held was evident in close to 1000 people in attendance at his funeral.

The McLeod family has certainly appreciated the wonderful support from this community.

Rest in peace, Nathan

Historic Funding Agreement for Catholic schools
The Premier and Minister for Education have, this week, announced that a re-elected Brumby Government will provide state funding to Catholic schools, linked to 25% of the cost of education in a state school.

This is a truly historic commitment to sustainable state funding for Catholic schools in Victoria. Only four years ago state funding made up only 15% of the income of Catholic schools.

Catholic education has now achieved bi-partisan commitment to fund Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school. The Coalition previously committed to state funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of education in a state school.

This commitment is a result of the hard work of many parish priests, religious congregations, principals, teachers and parents in raising the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools with our political leaders.

This historic achievement is a direct result of that strong advocacy. Thank you, in particular, to parents who have written to local MPs raising the issue of funding. Your work will have a lasting legacy in delivering sustainable funding to Catholic schools in Victoria.

Never again should state funding for Catholic schools be a political issue at a state election.
State Election
Victoria’s Catholic bishops have issued a statement encouraging voters to vote for candidates who understand and will work for the common good. The 2006 census showed there were more than 1.3 million Catholics in Victoria. More than one million of these will be eligible to vote in November.

For the first time in a Victorian State Election, the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale have prepared a powerful pre-election document to guide Catholics as they consider how they will vote.

In the nearly 2000 word document, Your Vote Your Values, the Catholic bishops urge Victoria’s Catholics to question their local candidates on a wide range of important issues before deciding for which candidate to vote.

Choosing the government is an important responsibility. The bishops urge Catholics to vote for the candidate who shares their values. Your Vote Your Values has been circulated to Catholic schools and parishes throughout Victoria. The document is available on all Victorian diocesan websites.

The bishops are not advocating any political party. They have raised issues and questions to help inform voters about important issues for the future. Catholics are encouraged to put specific questions and issues to candidates in the areas of Families, Life, Education, Health and Aged Care, Criminal Justice, Drugs and Alcohol and Religious Freedom.

Questions ask for commitments of candidates in relation to euthanasia, respect for rights of conscience, support for expectant and new mothers, abortion, homelessness targets, funding for schools, support for people with disabilities, for people with mental illness, increasing opportunities for rehabilitation in the criminal justice system, crime prevention, the defence of religious freedom and the rights of religious organisations.

Your Vote Your Values is signed by Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Bishop Peter Connors of Ballarat, Bishop Joe Grech of Bendigo (Sandhurst Diocese) and Bishop Christopher Prowse of Sale.

Please find attached to this newsletter a copy of Your Vote Your Values.

Structured Workplace Learning
The College currently has 32 students participating in either structured workplace learning or undertaking a school-based apprenticeship. In most of these cases it involves a one-day-a-week work placement with employers from around the district. On Tuesday evening, a celebration event of Structured-Workplace-Learning (SWL) was held at the Cobden Sports Club where the announcement of the SWL student of the year and SWL employer of the year were announced. Two of our students were nominated for the student of the year award. While they did not end up with the overall award, their nomination is very worthy of mention. Congratulations to James Thornton and Mitchell Carrigan-Walsh on their nomination.

New Appointments for 2011
As previously advised to our Year 12 students, the College is offering an Information Technology Traineeship to begin 1st December 2010. I am pleased to advise that Matthew O’Bryan (current Year 12 student) has been appointed to this position. The traineeship will require Matthew to complete a Certificate III course in IT. He will be assisting both Mercy Regional College IT Department as well as working with St Patrick’s and St Thomas’ Primary Schools in IT. This will provide the much needed additional staff support to the IT Department as they continue to implement the Digital Education Revolution program.

Student Achievement
This week we received results from the Catholic All Schools Athletics competition which identified that Nathan Stevens was named Boys 12-13 State Champion and Declan O’Connor as Boys 15 State Champion. These are outstanding results and we offer our congratulations to both Nathan and Declan.

Also, Mereanna Vickers has been given the opportunity to participate in the CFA Challenge 2011. This will provide Mereanna with a unique and exciting opportunity to develop her leadership skills. The program focuses mainly on leadership, teamwork and personal development. Well Done Mereanna.

Arts Night
The Mercy Regional College Annual Arts Night is fast approaching. Many of our students studying Arts and Technology subjects are putting the finishing touches to their displays for this evening.

An open invitation is extended to all members of the Mercy community to come along to the Arts Evening.

The evening will be on Wednesday 17th November commencing at 7.30pm in the deChantal Stadium.

I look forward to viewing the various displays of students work completed during the course of the year.

Mary MacKillop - St Mary of the Cross
Mary has been described as a:

- Woman of Compassion
- Woman of Courage
- Woman of God
- Woman of Action

The third of the series of four reflections about Mary MacKillop as identified above can be found on page nine. This week our reflection is titled Mary, Woman of God.
Graduation Mass and Dinner

The Year 12 Graduation and Mass will be held on Friday 19th November. Mass will commence at 6.00pm at St Patrick’s Church, Camperdown, followed by the Graduation Dinner commencing at 7.30pm at the Camperdown Football/Netball Club Function Centre. Only students who are currently enrolled in Year 12 at Mercy Regional College will be in attendance. As part of the catering arrangements for this dinner the College does require a number of parents from Year 11 to assist with the serving of meals. If you are able to assist please let Ms Lyn Davies know of your availability.

The family mass will be celebrated by Fathers Matthew Thomas and Eugene McKinnon and Year 12 students are asked be at the Church by 5.30pm so they can be organized. It is important that we gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist to mark the conclusion of 13 years of Catholic education.

I look forward to celebrating the success of our students, in early December, when the VCE results are released.

Car Raffle

This year the Car Raffle committee introduced a prize for members of our community who sold a book of raffle tickets and returned them to the College by Friday 29th October 2010. I am pleased to advise that Mrs Margaret Leahy was the lucky recipient of a new digital camera. Thank you to all those people who have returned sold raffle ticket books.

The 36th Mercy Regional College Car Raffle is now coming to an end with the draw of the raffle just four days away. It is very important that ALL raffle tickets are returned sold or unsold. It is a legal requirement that all tickets are returned. As always it is hoped that as many tickets as possible can be returned SOLD!

On Wednesday, 17th November, you could be the lucky winner of the following prizes if you have purchased a ticket:

1st Prize: 2010 Ford Focus LX Hatch valued at $27,999 including on road costs (Auto, prestige paint, air conditioning, power steering, cruise control CD player, alloy wheels 6 air bags and ABS) supplied courtesy of McKenzie Ford, Colac and Supported by Manifold Motors, Camperdown.

2nd Prize: Travel Voucher valued at $2000 supplied courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown.

3rd Prize: Electrical Goods Voucher valued at $1000 supplied courtesy of Camperdown Retravision.

4th Prize: Nutrimetrics Pamper Pack valued at $250 supplied courtesy of Helen Bourke, Kolora.

5th Prize: Fuel Voucher valued at $250 supplied courtesy of Steven Lucas, BP Camperdown.

6th Prize: Jewellery Voucher valued at $200 supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown and Colac.

7th Prize: Dinner Voucher valued at $100 supplied courtesy of Madden’s Bar & Bistro, Camperdown.

This year we have again selected a more fuel efficient car which will ensure the running costs for the eventual winner will be more economical.

The College is indeed grateful to our abovementioned suppliers of raffle prizes for their generosity.

Where possible, it would certainly be appreciated if our school community could support these businesses.

I look forward to a very successful car raffle result, which can be easily achieved if ALL families work together to sell their book of raffle tickets and assist with the selling roster.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day recalls the end of World War 1 at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. It was supposed to have been the war to end all wars, yet human beings are slow to learn. On November 11, 1944, the surgeon, Weary Dunlop, was entering the last phase of his long imprisonment, along with thousands of others, on the Thai Burma Railway. He had learned that all violence is futile. He wrote in his diary:

But courage, mon ami: That is the real foundation of life. When this blank page turns I shall find enchantment somewhere, somehow. ‘To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.’ That is why violence is so futile. Nothing is so destructive to a cause as violence wielded on its behalf. We have learned much of the inadequacy of material things, much of tolerance, much of endurance, even if it be only to endure failure in the commerce of life hereafter. There is plenty of courage all about us, even in the most maimed and damaged human beings.

E.E.Dunlop, The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop

The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. 
At the going down of the sun and in the morning 
We will remember them.
Capital Works
As many parents often ask, with increased enrolments where are we going to put everyone. In an effort to start to address this concern some capital works are close to being finalized for completion before the beginning of 2011.

A new Woodwork Room will be constructed at the O’Keeffe Campus on the site of the old tennis court adjacent to the Year 8 classrooms. You may notice some markings there already. This building will also have additional storage areas for PE equipment and other items that require storage.

At the McAuley Campus, we have been able to negotiate the use of the Seventh Day Adventist Hall, for 2011, to accommodate Music and Drama and possibly some other classes, while we await the outcome of our Catholic Capital Grant application.

The refurbishment of the Canteen can now commence with the conclusion of St Patrick’s School planning of their office refurbishments. This again should be completed over the holiday period and ready for 2011.

Finishing Dates for Year 7 – 11 Students
I would also like to take this opportunity to remind both students and parents that attendance, up to and including the last day of school, is required by all students at year levels. The last days for the various year levels are listed below:

Year 11: Friday 26th November
Year 7 - 10: Friday 3rd December

Second Hand Uniform
This year, the College will have second-hand uniform items and books available for sale on Monday 6th December, from 1.00pm to 3.30pm. If you have any uniform items you would like sold on this day, please place the clean uniform items in a bag clearly marked with your name. The current green school shirt will not be able to be sold as a second hand item. These items can then be left of the College office.

End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving
This year, our End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday 7th December at St Thomas’ Church, Terang at 7.00pm followed by supper. The evening time will allow families to celebrate the Eucharist together. It is the expectation of the College that ALL students in Year 7 – 11 would be in attendance.

Following Mass there will be the presentations of awards and prizes. Supper will follow in the St Thomas’ Community Centre.

We ask that parents of our Year 8 students help the St Thomas’ community with catering, by being prepared to bring along a plate of supper to share.

School Uniform & Hats
A reminder to all parents that the summer uniform is to be worn during term 4 and that part of the summer uniform is the requirement that all students must wear the approved College hat when in the sun. The College hat is available from our uniform suppliers.

Along the Track
I have attached to this newsletter, for your interest, on page ten, a reflection titled “Feast of all Souls” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

Prayer

Loving God be with me now, as I prepare for my exams. Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given me and for the opportunity of education. Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions the very best that I can.

Holy Spirit, sit with me in my exam - and always.

In Jesus’ name

Amen

(www.cymtas.org.au/prayers_for_students/)

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Susie O’Brien for her positive approach to everything and stepping up to meet new challenges.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Eliza Moloney for her caring attitude and for always being prepared to help others.
Outdoor Ed Camp Report
James Castles

Wilson Promontory Bush Walk
On November 3rd to 5th the Outdoor Education students had a two-night stay at Wilsons Promontory National Park in South Gippsland. Wilsons Promontory was selected as our location for the camp as it was an environment the students hadn't experienced previously.

The students were involved in a number of different activities, which helped them to learn more about themselves and of course, the environment.

The highlight of the trip was our 20km walk from Tidal River to Sealers Cove. It was great to see that the group was able to maintain a high level of enthusiasm throughout the walk given the temperature and conditions.

It was also pleasing to see that all students enjoyed themselves and the company of their peers. Looking back on the camp it was a positive experience for all students and staff involved.

On behalf of the students, I would like to thank all parents for allowing their son or daughter to take part in this subject. The subject is not only educational, it also helps development of some very important life skills.

Thanks must also be given to the students, whose behaviour on the three camps, (Wilsons Promontory, Mt Buller, and Torquay) was outstanding.
Australian Maths Competition Results
Leanne Carpenter

I am sorry it has taken some time to acknowledge the students who participated in the Australian Maths Competition. There was a hold-up with our certificates and we are hoping to acknowledge the students’ results soon. At Year Seven level we had 96 students sit the competition, with 24 students receiving credits and 4 students receiving a distinction. At Year Eight we had 71 students sit the competition with 26 credits and 4 distinctions. Year Nine, we had 53 students sit the competition with 10 credits. At Year Ten, 34 students competed with 14 credits and 4 distinctions. At Year 11 and 12 there were a total of 34 students who sat the competition, with 15 credits and 5 distinctions.

Those students who received a distinction, which places them in the top twenty percent of their year level in the state, were:

Jonathan Benallack, Thomas Leadbetter, Mia Cain, Jack Williams (Year 7)
Kirsty Almond, Caitlin Smart, Bonnie Hinkley, Rhys Jansen van Beek (Year 8)
Seamus Conheady, Dallin Sonnet, Elizabeth Smith, Simon Fleming (Year 10)
Jac Domney, Samantha Alexander, Stacey Boyd, Nicole Esh, (Year 11)
Natalie Fleming (Year 12)

Congratulations to all students who participated in the competition, a very pleasing set of results. Well done!

CAS Athletics Report
James Castles

This was held at the Doncaster Athletics Track on Tuesday, 14th September, 2010. Individual State Champions results below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys 12-13 Year Old</th>
<th>Mercy Regional</th>
<th>Geelong</th>
<th>27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nathan Stevens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bailey Biggs</td>
<td>St Josephs College</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zack Long</td>
<td>St Ignatius College, Drysdale</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rhys Lias</td>
<td>St Josephs College, Echuca</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jonathan McKay</td>
<td>MacKillop College, Werribee</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys 15 Year Old</th>
<th>Mercy Regional College</th>
<th>Geelong</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Declan O’Connor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tom Henry</td>
<td>St Josephs College</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Will Soonalale</td>
<td>MacKillop College, Werribee</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Patrick Ryan</td>
<td>Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ben Thomas</td>
<td>Mary MacKillop College, Leongatha</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

France, The Battlefields & London 2011 Trip
Lachie Lee

In September 2011, MRC is running a school trip to France and England with a focus on the battlefields of the Western Front of the First World War. Of the 60,000 Australians killed in the Great War, nearly 50,000 were killed in France and Belgium. Many of those had connections with our local district. There has been an increasing level of interest with our young people in this cataclysmic event in our history. We will also be spending time in Paris and London.

The MRC trip will be leaving in the last week of Term 3, 2011 and so far, quite a number of students have paid deposits. Those who might still be interested in joining this tour, please feel free to contact Lachie Lee, at McAuley Campus, during school time.

Year 11 Exam & Transition
Lachie Lee

Year 11 exams will begin with English on Friday, 19th November. Exams will continue Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th (morning). Transition for Year 11 VCE students and those Year 10s who will be doing a Unit 3 and 4 subject in 2011, will begin after lunch, on Wednesday, 24th and continue until Friday 26th November. This day will be the final day for Year 11’s for 2010.

All students are required to sit exams and attend the transition sessions in correct school uniform. Transition is a vital part of the students’ preparation for their Year 12 VCE studies and therefore, attendance is compulsory.

Please find a copy of the Exam and Transition timetables attached to this newsletter. If there are any queries regarding this week please contact Lachie Lee, Lyn Davies or Lisa Pope.

UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS

The Uniform Shop will trade on the following days and times in the school holidays.

Monday 6th December: 12noon - 4pm (Second-hand Book & Uniform Sale Day)
Tuesday 7th December: 12noon - 4pm
Monday 24th January: 9am - 3pm (2011 Book Collection Day)
Wednesday 2nd February: 9am - 12noon
Thursday 3rd February: 1pm - 4pm
From the Director of Teaching & Learning
Lisa Pope

Parent Teacher Survey Feedback
I would like to thank the 82 families who have responded to our Parent Teacher Feedback Survey. It was clear from our data collection that an online booking system is a viable option in supporting the smooth operation of this night. We have also taken on board the clear message that all teaching staff need to be present for these interviews, or alternative arrangements need to be made to access absent teachers.

We are grateful for the feedback regarding the structure of our interim, or progress, reports and their use in guiding this process. Over 90% of our parent body supported the current structure. It is also clear that parents would like us to continue to offer a variety of times when they can attend these interviews, so our current timing will not change.

Over the coming weeks, the curriculum team will investigate the most appropriate online booking package to make sure these nights run more smoothly. Thanks once again for your feedback.

Careers Report
James Castles

HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL NEWS
Deakin University tackling optometry skill shortages: Did you know that there is a major skills shortage in the area of Optometry, particularly in rural and regional areas? Current research by Access Economics suggests that by 2026, the shortfall of Optometrists could be as much as 3800. Deakin are looking to introduce new Optometry programs at their Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus by 2012. It is envisaged these Bachelor and post graduate programs will be run subject to accreditation by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Interested in Engineering? Swinburne’s Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Sciences would like to invite students in years 9 - 12 to come along to the Engineering Expo. The event will showcase projects of final year students studying across the areas of civil, electrical, electronic, robotics and mechatronics, biomedical, mechanical and product design engineering. Current students will be on hand to answer any questions about their projects or what it’s like studying engineering at Swinburne. The event will be held at the Hawthorne campus on Tuesday 30 November between 12 – 3pm. To register, go to www.swinburne.edu.au/engineering/expo

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 25: Future Options Disability Expo, Melbourne, sbailey@skillsplus.com.au
- 30: Swing by Swinburne campus tours, all campuses, www.swinburne.edu.au

DECEMBER NEWS

- 7: Swing by Swinburne campus tours, all campuses, www.swinburne.edu.au
- 14 – 15: Victoria Uni Change of Preference Expo, Footscray Campus, student.recruitment@vu.edu.au
- 17: Australian Catholic Uni Change of Preference Expo, Melbourne Campus, studentcentre@patrick.acu.edu.au

Apprenticeships
There is a building apprenticeship available in the Colac area. Applications must be in by 12th November but students will be allowed to finish school this year. Please contact Michael Absalom from Western District Employment Access on 5231 3411.

Wannon Water has a vacancy for an Apprentice Fitter & Turner to be based in our Camperdown Depot. This position would suit a school leaver or year 10 or 11 student wishing to pursue a career within the Water Industry. Applications for the position can be forwarded to Jenna Hurley Human Resources Officer5564 2739 or email jenna.hurley@wannonwater.com.au Applications close - 19th November, 2010
**School Based Traineeship**
Corangamite Adult Education Group has a possible traineeship available, would suit confident student, please see Mr. Castles if interested.

**Scholarships**

**New science scholarships:**
The La Trobe Institute for Molecular Sciences (LIMS) is now offering scholarships to students from regional areas seeking to major in one of a range of scientific disciplines, in an undergraduate course, at La Trobe’s Bendigo campus. To read about the scholarships and to download an application form, go to
www.latrobe.edu.au/scitecheng.scholarships

**Industry Scholarship Program at Swinburne Uni:**
Swinburne’s Bachelor of Information Technology (IT) Industry Scholarship Program at the Hawthorne Campus is one of Australia’s most prestigious scholarship degrees. The course aims to prepare students for future leadership roles in IT and runs in a fast track mode to incorporate two 20 week periods of Industry-Based Learning (IBL). Students admitted into the degree will receive an industry-funded scholarship of approximately $33,500 paid over three years. Students can add the program to their preferences throughout Change of Preference in December and they will need to fill out a supplementary application form. For more info, go to www.future.swinburne.edu.au/I050

**WORK EXPERIENCE FOR 2011**

There are quite a number of students who have not returned their work experience forms.

A letter was sent home to parents via the current year 9 students on 14th September.

Work Experience will be from 21st February to 25th February 2011.

These forms were due back to the school office on 5th November. A lot of preparation has to be done in the lead up to work experience so these forms need to be returned ASAP.

Students need to do a Health & Safety General Module and Industry Module on the internet – so it is important that they know where they are going for work experience.

**IMPORTANT VTAC DATES**

10th December 2010 at 5pm very late course applications close.

20th December 2010 for change or preference.

The school will be open Monday 20th and 21st for students that require assistance.

Please contact Lisa Pope or James Castles at the College office.

**Chemistry Quiz Results 2010**

Jenny Phillips

Each year all students studying VCE Chemistry participate in the National Chemistry Quiz which is held in late July.

This year the Science Faculty also offered this opportunity to the Yr 9 & 10 students who had achieved the highest marks in the mid-year Science Exam.

The Quiz gives these students the opportunity to complete against others students throughout Australia in the same year level and is also an opportunity for them to sit an exam that is externally set.

Congratulations to all the students who availed themselves of this opportunity and participated in the Quiz.

**Credits**

Yr 11 - Oscar Cavarsan
Nicole Esh

**Distinctions**

Yr 9 – Zachary O’Flynn
Yr 10 – Kiara Williams
Yr 11 – Grace Evans
Isabel King
Connor Saunders
Yr 12 – Natalie Fleming

**High Distinctions**

Yr 9 – Rachael Gibson
Yr 11 – Jac Domney
Yr 12 – James Lenehan

Well done everyone.
!!!! REMINDER !!!!

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH SMALL AMOUNTS OWING ON THEIR SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNTS. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD SETTLE YOUR ACCOUNT WITH THE COLLEGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

LYNN WADLEY
BUSINESS MANAGER

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A Woman of God

God is all goodness and love. MM 1880.

Mary Mackillop was a woman who believed that God loved her. She felt and experienced the abundance of God’s love for her. At the time of her excommunication she wrote: ‘The calm beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.’

She spent time in prayer reflecting on the many ways God was active in her life. She made an annual retreat and attended Mass whenever she could. She made a pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial in France in 1873 - a special place dedicated to the Sacred Heart - the symbol of God’s love for her.

She once wrote: ‘God’s presence seems to follow me everywhere, and makes everything I do or wish a prayer’ (1870).

She encouraged people to find God in the midst of their everyday life - in their joys and their sorrows. She had a special love for St Joseph.

Today many people come seeking the intercession of Mary Mackillop because in her they believe they have a friend in heaven. Many people say ‘she understands my story’ because she too suffered with ill health, she too knew sorrow in her life, she too had to face difficult situations, she too had a special place in her heart for God’s poor.

Painting by Andrea Meltzer - used with permission

This is my beloved with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17

Copyright 2005 Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney, Australia
Feast of all Souls

Researching the family tree is a fascinating exercise – who were these forebears, what were they like? Why did they come to Australia, why did they settle in this particular place? Their decisions were so critical in my life and that of my children. In so many ways, we stand on their shoulders and live their legacy. In a real sense, we are still connected.

Being connected or ‘in communion’ is also at the heart of our faith. We become ‘one body in Christ’ at Baptism and we continue sharing that common life forever, even with those who have ‘gone before’, connected beyond death. We speak of this connection each time we pray for the living and ‘those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith’. We have not lost those who have died. They are still with us, still part of us and we them, not just in mind but in spirit. This common bond, ‘the communion of saints’, brings together the present, past and future.

From the earliest times, Christians have prayed for those who have died. Prayer for a loved one is a way of eased any distance, any division or separation, even in death.

We pray for those who have died, not just as a means of thanking them, acknowledging our debt to them and our love for them but as a recognition of human frailty – theirs and ours. In the words of Pope Benedict: Who would not feel the need to convey to their departed loved ones a sign of kindness, a gesture of gratitude or even a request for pardon? (Spe Salvi #48)

We still need each other, no one of us is completely self-sufficient, even in death.

Our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one is saved alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others continually spill over into mine: In what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse.

So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification.

(Spe Salvi #48)

The idea of purification after death is a long-held Christian belief – for Catholics and some other Christians, that belief is called purgatory. It is important, however, that we ‘not make purgatory into a flaming concentration camp on the brink of hell a B Grade hell—or even a ‘hell for a short time’. It is blasphemous to think of it as a place where a petty God exacts the last pound—or ounce—of flesh. (Leonard Foley, O.F.M., Believing In Jesus).

In Purgatory, as in life here on earth, we are loved intensely by God. St. Catherine of Genoa, a mystic of the 15th century, wrote that the ‘fire of purgatory is God’s love ‘burning’ the soul so that, at last, the soul is wholly aflame….the pain of desire for union that is now absolutely assured, but not yet fully tasted.’ Pope Benedict echoes these sentiments when he wrote that the fire described by Saint Paul is nothing other than the soul’s encounter with Jesus!

The fire which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Saviour. The encounter with Him is the decisive act of judgement. Before His gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with Him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allows us to become truly ourselves. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. (Spe Salvi # 47).

There are two further important points: Purgatory is not like a mathematical equation - this sin warrants this temporal punishment which must be paid for by this many years in purgatory. Unfortunately, that is the way our mind can work as we judge others. That’s not God’s way. Purgatory is a time of falling further in love, fully encountering God through Jesus for the first time. We no longer have any need to hide behind self images we may have created, things we have amassed. We encounter God in the fullness of love for the very first time. That love completely transforms us. Secondly, we cannot calculate the “duration” of purgatory in months or years – purgatory is this transforming event, a passage to full communion with God. It may suit us to convert or measure this transformation into time, into earthly measurements but once again, that is not God’s way.

We are one in Christ with all those generations who have been baptised before and those still to come. What a marvellous reminder this feast day provides!

Regards
Jim Quillinan
Phone: 0401 935 023
Email: jquillinan@dcsnet.net.au

Feast of all souls 2 November 2010
2010 Car Raffle

“ONLY A FEW DAYS TO GO”
The Car will be drawn on “Arts Night”
Wednesday 17th November at 8:30pm

There are still a lot of tickets that have not been returned please make sure they are at the College office by Monday 15th November

All tickets have to be accounted for sold and unsold.

We thank in advance all families for their cooperation in this matter.

1st Prize: 2010 Ford Focus LX Hatch valued at $27,999

2nd Prize: Harvey World Travel Voucher valued at $2,000.00

3rd Prize: Electrical Voucher $1,000.00

4th Prize: Nutri-metics Pamper Pack valued at $250.00

5th Prize: Fuel Voucher valued at $250.00

6th Prize: Jewellery Voucher valued at $200.00

7th Prize: Dinner Voucher valued at $100.00

“Remember to win you must be in it”
Arts & Technology Night
Wednesday 17th November 7.30 pm

Mercy Regional College
de Chantal Stadium
Car Raffle drawn at 8.30pm
Featuring student work from Art, Design Tech, Food Tech, Graphics, Music, Textiles & more
DATE CLAIMER
THE BIG GIG - SUNDAY DEC 5th 2010
Diocesan Youth Gathering All Welcome
From 10.30am to 4pm at
St Augustine's Catholic Church, Maryborough
A fun day of MUSIC, MISSION & MINISTRY for those
interested in Social Justice Action
COST: $5.00 Includes lunch
FREE bus from / to the Ballarat Cathedral (Departs at
9am returns at 5.00pm)
REGISTER at: youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au
OR call the Diocesan Youth Office on
0457 931 232 for more info!

New “Lens on the Lakes” Photo Competition
Aspiring photographers are being encouraged to capture
Corangamite Shire’s lakes while they are full of water and
teeming with wildlife. Entries will be displayed at an
exhibition scheduled for March 2011. Corangamite Arts
chairperson, Dr Marion Manifold said details were still
being finalized “This notice is to give photographers as
much time possible to capture aspects and moods of the
lakes over spring and summer.” “The competition is open
to all artists and all ages and now is a great time to start
taking photos,” she added. Details and entry forms will
be available on this website or at the Civic Centre in
Camperdown in the next few weeks.
### YEAR 7 & 8 Exam Timetable Semester 2 (December) 2010

| DAY            | SESSION 1 |  | SESSION 2 |  | SESSION 3 |  
|----------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---
|                | Reading Time: 9:20 – 9:25 am |  | Reading Time: 11:25 – 11:30 am |  | Lesson 5 & 6 | 1:30 – 3:10 pm |
|                | Writing Time: 9:25 – 10:55 am |  | Writing Time: 11:30 – 12:55 pm |  | Classes as normal |  
| Tuesday 30th Nov | ENGLISH | Homeroom | SCIENCE | Homeroom | Classes as normal | Timed Examination Classroom |
| Wednesday 1st Dec | MATHEMATICS | Homeroom | HUMANITIES (SOE) | Homeroom | Classes as normal | Timed Examination Classroom |

NB: All Junior Exams will be conducted at the O’Keeffe campus.
- Classes will run as per normal in the afternoon.
- School uniform is to be worn.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students must bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.

### Year 9 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 2 (1st and 2nd December) 2010

| DAY            | SESSION 1 |  | SESSION 2 |  | SESSION 3 |  
|----------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---
| Wednesday 1st December | ENGLISH | Stadium | STUDY | Stadium | SCIENCE | Stadium |
| Thursday 2nd December | SOSE | Stadium | HEALTH & PE | Stadium | MATHS | NORMAL CLASS ROOM |

NB: School uniform is to be worn to the school for the exam.
- Students will need to bring school book to exam.
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students must bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.

### YEAR 10 Exam Timetable – SEMESTER 2 - 30th of November and 1st and 2nd December 2010

| DAY            | SESSION 1 |  | SESSION 2 |  | SESSION 3 |  
|----------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---
|                | Reading Time: 9:20 – 9:25 am |  | Reading Time: 11:15 – 11:20 am |  | Reading Time: 1:25 – 1:30 pm |  
|                | Writing Time: 9:25 – 10:55 am |  | Writing Time: 11:20 – 12:50 pm |  | Writing Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm |  
| Tuesday 30th December | English | Stadium | Agriculture Studies | Art | Photography | Woodwork Hospitality | Stadium |
| Wednesday 1st December | Science | Stadium | STUDY | Stadium | Business Management Building and Construction | Outdoors Education Psychology | Stadium |
| Thursday 2nd December | Math | Stadium | Physical Education | Stadium | NORMAL CL | ART | Graphic Design | Food Technology | Music | NORMAL CLASS ROOM |
### Year 11 Exam Timetable – Semester 2 (NOV 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>SESSION 1</th>
<th>SESSION 2</th>
<th>SESSION 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Time: 9:30 – 11:00 am.</td>
<td>Writing Time: 11:30 – 1:00 pm.</td>
<td>Writing Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>NB. Food Tech exam to be held during periods 3 and 4 on Friday</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th NOV</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Reading Time: 12:30pm Writing Time: 12:45-2:45pm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>LEGAL STUDIES</td>
<td>GENERAL MATHEMATICS (Mr. Stanton and Ms. Simmott)</td>
<td>INFORMATION TECH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd NOV</td>
<td>BIOLOGY</td>
<td>MATHS METHODS (2; Calculator) (Mr. Stanton)</td>
<td>VC&amp;D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYSICS</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>PHYS ED</td>
<td>CHEMISTRY</td>
<td>STUDIO ARTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd NOV</td>
<td>LITERATURE</td>
<td>DESIGN &amp; TECH</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
<td>STUDY</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NB:**
- School uniform is to worn to the school for the exams and transition
- Students will need to bring looseleaf to exams and transition
- Exam conditions apply for all exams.
- Students will not be permitted to leave the room until the designated finish time.
- Students may bring a novel (not the newspaper) to read if they finish early.

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### Mercy Regional College – 2011 Year 12 Transition Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block A</th>
<th>Block B</th>
<th>Block C</th>
<th>Block D</th>
<th>Block E</th>
<th>Block F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology A</td>
<td>English A</td>
<td>English B</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>English C</td>
<td>Literature - Lochie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology</td>
<td>Specialist Math-</td>
<td>Further Maths: A</td>
<td>Design Tech Wood –</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Further Maths: B –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Biology B –</td>
<td>Physical Ed (A) –</td>
<td>Psychology (A)</td>
<td>Outdoor Ed</td>
<td>Psychology B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Revolution: –</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Studio Arts –</td>
<td>Visual Communication –</td>
<td>Health &amp; HD B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; HD (A)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Ed (B)</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Senior Numeracy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management –</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Literacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periods: 1 &amp; 2</th>
<th>Periods: 3 &amp; 4</th>
<th>Periods: 5 &amp; 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th NOV</td>
<td>HEALTH &amp; HD GEM MATHS ADVANCED</td>
<td>BLOCK E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th NOV</td>
<td>BLOCK A</td>
<td>Races as normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>BLOCK F</td>
<td>Year 11 Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th NOV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Money enclosed: