ISSUE 4-4
26th November, 2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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.

Advent
This Sunday we commence the season of Advent, a very important time in the Church’s Liturgical Calendar. The season of Advent is symbolized by the Advent Wreath. The wreath is a symbol of growth and life. Traditionally adored with purple and pink candles, it reminds us of the power of the light of Christ overcoming evil in our world. The circle symbolizes the continuity of life. The word “Advent” means “coming” (from the Latin Adventus) and this is the time we wait in joyful anticipation for our God to come yet again, to come and be born in our hearts. The season of Advent recognizes the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in a special way. During Advent we are challenged to be open to the unexpected and ready for a few surprises! That is not always easy. The familiar is always more comfortable than the unfamiliar. God will not be boxed or labeled or “assumed”. God will be God and come amongst us in ways that we least expect.

Lord, as we look to the birth of Jesus,
Grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us.
Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming,
For Jesus is our hope.
Amen

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner
Friday 19th November, our graduating class for 2010 gathered at St Patrick’s Church Camperdown to celebrate the Eucharist together followed by the presentation of awards. Particular thanks are extended to Fathers Eugene McKinnon and Matthew Thomas for celebrating our Mass.

This was then followed by a wonderful Graduation dinner held at the Camperdown Football/Netball Club Function Centre.

The new Camperdown Football/Netball Function Centre proved to be a terrific venue which was wonderfully decorated and as always our graduating students looked magnificent.

A thank you is also extended to some of our Year 11 students who sung in the choir, served on the tables at the Graduation Dinner along with Year 11 parents who assisted in the kitchen.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parent Helpers</th>
<th>Student Waitresses</th>
<th>School Choir</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jodie Marsland</td>
<td>Georgia Clissold</td>
<td>Ruby Johnstone</td>
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<td>Donna Baxter</td>
<td>Grace Kingston</td>
<td>Kelsy Alexander</td>
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<td>Betty Kenna</td>
<td>Monique McKenzie</td>
<td>Tom Leadbetter</td>
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<td>Diane Glennen</td>
<td>Stacey Boyd</td>
<td>Rachael O’Connor</td>
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<td>Maureen Bant</td>
<td>Bridget Kenna</td>
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<td>Kelsy Alexander</td>
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<td>Emily Moloney</td>
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<td>Hannah Gibney</td>
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Finally, my appreciation is extended to Mrs Jo Saunders, Miss Mel Sadler and Ms Rebecca McGrath for their talents in putting together a very moving liturgy.

Thank you to Mr Hugh Saunders for directing the choir and overseeing the music for the Graduation Mass and to Ms Lyn Davies for her outstanding organisation of the Graduation Dinner.
CORANGAMITE CITIZENSHIP AWARD
This award recognizes a student who is involved in the local community through groups such as service clubs and youth groups. The student has been prepared to represent the school at events not directly related to sport or the curriculum, such as Youth Forums. The winner of this award is a student who is prepared to work towards improving the local community.
Awarded to: James Lenehan

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD
This award recognises the recipient as a person who has worked with and for others to a level of excellence in academic, sporting, religious and service activities within the College.
Awarded to: Tom O’Loughlan

CALTEX ALLROUNDER
This award recognizes a student who participates in a wider range of school activities, does not necessarily display champion qualities in any single pursuit, but shows commitment, a willingness to participate and desire to always do their best. While other awards recognise outstanding achievement in a particular field, this award rewards the student’s total achievement in the school and community. The winner is an excellent role model for fellow students.
Awarded to: Ebony Boyd

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK AWARD
This award recognises a student who has displayed outstanding leadership ability and appreciated the value and contribution of everyone in a team.
Awarded to: Xavier Gstrein

VET EXCELLENCE AWARD
This award recognises a student who has successfully combined VCE studies with vocational training and experience in the workforce. The student has displayed outstanding organisational skills and time management ability, ensuring that the student has been able to combine the demands of school and the workplace.
Awarded to: Ella Rounds

VCAL AWARD
This award recognises a student who has successfully combined VCE studies with vocational training and experience in the workforce. The student has displayed outstanding organisational skills and time management ability, ensuring that the student has been able to combine the demands of school and the workplace.
Awarded to: Bray Wright

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
This award recognizes a student who has achieved academic excellence during the course of the year in their studies and who has applied to study at Deakin University next year.
Awarded to: Ashlee Ludeman

COLLEGE CAPTAINS PRESENTATION
As leaders of the College these student has been a proud and willing ambassador of the College. They have displayed sound leadership skills and were admired by their peers for the manner in which they demonstrated their responsibilities.
Awarded to: Joe Gleeson and Lauren Carlin

BELOW IS THE PHOTO OF THE 2010 YEAR 12 GRADUATING STUDENTS
Catholic Schools and the State Election Update
Catholic education has achieved bi-partisan support for fair funding for Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of recurrent education per student in a government school from the ALP and Liberal National Coalition Parties. Regardless of who wins the election on 27th November, Catholic education will receive increased state government funding that recognises the contribution of Catholic schools across Victoria.

Further information about the historic funding deal for Catholic Schools is contained within the Special Election Announcement attached to this newsletter. You may also like to familiarise yourself with other issues in relation to education policies. Further details in this regard can be found on the website of each party:

- **ALP**  [www.alpvictoria.com.au](http://www.alpvictoria.com.au)
- **Liberal Party**  [www.liberalvictoria.org.au](http://www.liberalvictoria.org.au)
- **Nationals**  [www.vicnats.com](http://www.vicnats.com)
- **Greens**  [www.green.org.au](http://www.green.org.au)
- **DLP**  [www.dlp.org.au](http://www.dlp.org.au)
- **Family First**  [www.vic.familyfirst.org.au](http://www.vic.familyfirst.org.au)

Catholic education has been active during the state election on the issue of fair funding for Catholic schools. Both the Labor Party and the Liberal Nationals Coalition have now committed to fund Catholic schools at 25% of the cost of educating a student in a government school. Irrespective of whether the Labor Party or the Liberal Nationals Coalition is elected to government on 27 November Catholic education will receive fair funding.

The Greens Party currently has three members in the upper house and there have been suggestions that they could be competitive in other upper house regions and a number of lower house seats in the inner-suburbs of Melbourne. On your behalf we contacted the Greens Party in August asking for their education policies and particularly how they might affect Catholic schools. We are yet to receive any response. The published Greens Party education policy is silent on Catholic school funding. We can only assume that the Victorian Greens Party policy is the same as the Greens policy at the recent federal election. This would cut funding to Catholic schools in Victoria by more than $60 million per year. We are concerned that without a commitment to funding for Catholic schools the Greens Party policy would put additional financial pressure on Catholic schools.

The Democratic Labor Party (DLP) currently has a member in the Victorian Upper House and commentary suggests he may be re-elected. The DLP may also be competitive in a number of other regions for the Upper House. In general the DLP education policy is supportive of parental choice in education and providing government funding to all schools on similar terms. The policy is therefore supportive of Catholic education.

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 fourth of the series of four reflection about Mary MacKillop as identified above can be found on page ten. This week our reflection is titled Mary, Woman of Action.

Arts Night
On Wednesday evening the College’s Annual Arts Evening was held.

This evening is an opportunity for the showcasing of students work from the Arts and Technology Faculties. I am sure most people who were able to get along to the evening would agree that the students’ technology projects, art work and performances were outstanding. Congratulations to all students who had their work exhibited and who performed.

Thanks are extended to the staff of the Arts and Technology Faculties: Mr Jared Lyn, Ms Tina Jenkins, Mrs Janet Backhous, Mrs Jenny Binder, Ms Lyn Davies, Ms Kirsten Gibson, Ms Danae Fraser Mrs Sharyn Grinter, Mrs Margaret Jeffery, Mr Cameron Beaton and Mrs Annette Price.

Here are just a few photos of the work that was on display.
Car Raffle Results
The drawing of our annual Car Raffle has become very much part of the Arts Night. This year’s winners were:

1ST PRIZE:
FORD FOCUS LX HATCH – VALUE $27,999.00
Supplied courtesy of A.K. McKenzie Motors, Camperdown & Colac
Winner: Dylan Jones, Terang

2ND PRIZE:
TRAVEL VOUCHER – Value $2,000
Supplied courtesy of Harvey World Travel, Camperdown
Winner: Alice Pekin, Simpson

3RD PRIZE:
ELECTRICAL VOUCHER – Value $1,000
Supplied courtesy of Camperdown Retravision
Winner: Stephen Humphrys, Camperdown

4TH PRIZE:
NUTRIMETICS PAMPER PACK – Value $250.00
Supplied courtesy of Helen Bourke, Kolora
Winner: Amy Gaut, Ecklin

5TH PRIZE:
FUEL VOUCHER – Value $250.00
Supplied courtesy of Riordan Fuels & BP Camperdown
Winner: Pauline Skene, Camperdown

6TH PRIZE:
JEWELLERY VOUCHER – Value $200
Supplied courtesy of Showcase Jewellers, Camperdown & Colac
Winner: Travis Cole, Terang

7TH PRIZE:
DINNER VOUCHER – Value $100
Supplied courtesy of Madden’s Bar & Bistro, Camperdown
Winner: Giulio Venditti, Point Cook

The Mercy Regional College Parents and Friends Assoc. would like to acknowledge the generosity of –
- John Cheslett & Staff of Manifold Motors, Camperdown
- Harvey World Travel, Camperdown
- Camperdown Retravision
- Helen Bourke, Kolora
- Riordon Fuels and Steven Lucas BP Camperdown
- Showcase Jewellers of Camperdown / Colac
- John, Agnes & Dennis Madden, Commercial Hotel & Bistro, Camperdown

The College is indeed grateful to our above mentioned suppliers of raffle prizes for their generosity. Where possible it would certainly be appreciated if our school community could support these businesses.

Thank you to all parents who ensured raffle tickets were sold at home and those parents who also sold tickets at various locations around the district.

The success of the car raffle is due to your efforts. Of particular notes is the work of the PTFA Committee and Maureen Adeney who again has co-ordinated the raffle this year.

PTFA Meeting
The next PTFA Meeting will on Thursday 2nd December commencing at 6.30pm. This meeting will be held at the Commercial Hotel followed by dinner to mark the end of another very successful year.

At this dinner meeting members of the Car Raffle Committee are also invited to celebrate another successful Car Raffle.
**Student Achievements**

Congratulations to Elizabeth Smart and James Keough who have been selected into the University of Melbourne, Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program. Their application was selected from over 1700 submissions by students across Victoria and the state’s boarder regions. This program recognises both community involvement and academic achievement. On Friday 10th December 2010, the University will host a Welcome Event for all selected Year 10 Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars.

Elizabeth Smart has also entered the Spirit of ANZAC competition this year. We have been notified that Elizabeth has been selected as one of 27 finalists from around the state. She will now complete a presentation and participate in an interview with the hope of being selected as one of the 10 students who will represent Victoria next year as they travel to Egypt and Turkey for ANZAC Day. Congratulations Elizabeth.

**Finishing Date for Year 7 – 10 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, for the year is required by all students at all year levels. 

The last day of school for Year 7–10 is: **Friday 3rd December**

**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 eight 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.

**Secondhand Book & Uniform Sale Day**

This year the College will again 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 you name.

The current green school shirt will not be able to be sold as a second hand item. These items can be left at the College office.

**A Graduate’s Prayer**

To conclude this newsletter article, I provide you with the following prayer and ask that all members of the Mercy community pray for all our graduating students as they embark on the next stage of their lives and offer them our support and best wishes, praying for their happiness.

> Father I have knowledge, so will you show
> Me now how to use it wisely and find a
> Way somehow to make the world I live in a
> Little better place. And make life with its problems a bit
easier to face

> Grant me faith and courage and put
> Purpose in my days. And show me how to
> Serve Thee in the most effective ways so all
> My education, my knowledge and my skill,
> May find true fulfilment as I learn to
> Do Thy will

> And may I ever be aware in everything I
> Do that knowledge comes from learning
> And wisdom comes from you.

Author unknown

**Along the Track**

I have attached to this newsletter on page ten, a reflection titled “Shaking off the Dust” written by Jim Quilinan from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office in Warragul. I hope you enjoy this reading.

**Last Edition of the MRC Newsletter & School Reports**

Please note that the last edition of the College Newsletter will be posted home with reports on Tuesday 14th December 2010. Parents should receive reports in the post by Wednesday 15th December. Included with the reports will be a school calendar, the cost will be $10.00 and this amount will be added onto next year’s fee account.

Andrew Watson
PRINCIPAL

**LOST**

A $200 calculator.
Thomas Lenehan Year 10B, has
lost/ misplaced his calculator.
If anyone knows the whereabouts of it, or
if it is found please inform the College
office. Thank you.
Term 4

Monday 29th November
- Year 7 2011 Orientation Day (no classes for current year seven students)
- Leadership Camp

Tuesday 30th November
- Leadership Camp
- Year 7, 8 & 10 Exams

Wednesday 1st December
Year 7, 8 9 & 10 Exams

Thursday 2nd December
Year 9 & 10 Exams

Friday 3rd December
Year 7 - 10 students conclude

Monday 6th December
Year 7 2011 - On Demand Testing

Tuesday 7th December
- Year 7 2011 - On Demand Testing
- Mass of Thanksgiving & Presentation of Awards commencing 7.00pm at St Thomas’ Church.

Friday 10th December
Teaching Staff conclude

Wednesday 15th December
- Non Teaching Staff conclude
- Office closes

Term 1 - 2011
Dates for the start of the school year

Monday 24th January
- Book Collection Day
- MRC Uniform Shop Open (9.00am – 3.00pm)
- College Office open (8.15am – 4.30pm)

Tuesday 25th January
College Office Open (8.15am to 4.30pm)

Wednesday 26th January
AUSTRALIA DAY

Thursday 27th January
College Office open normal hours (8.15am – 4.30pm)

Friday 28th January
College Office open normal hours (8.15am – 4.30pm)

Monday 31st January
College Office open normal hours (8.15am – 4.30pm)

Tuesday 1st February
- College Office open normal hours (8.15am – 4.30pm)
- Teaching Staff Resume
- MRC Uniform Shop Open (9.00am to 12.00pm)
- Staff Professional Development Day 1

Wednesday 2nd February
- Staff Professional Development Day 2
- MRC Uniform Shop Open (1.00pm – 4.00pm)

Thursday 3rd February
Staff Professional Development Day 3

Friday 4th February
ALL STUDENTS COMMENCE TERM 1

MERCY AWARDS

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Jamie Giddens for his great work, helpful attitude and having a real go. Also, for his very good performance in Music.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Thomas Brett for helping with the catering for Arts Night.

Senior School (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Natasha Heyden, Grace Evans and Monique MacKenzie for helping with the catering for Arts Night.
African Impact
Report by: Stephanie Lee and William Milsom

On the 11th November, Sheree and Kim O'Connor came to our school to share their African experience with the year 7's. Last January Sheree and Kim made their way to Tanzania to volunteer as teachers on a small island called Zanzibar off the east coast of Africa. They went through a program called African Impact.

They had a choice of where they would like to go; they chose this island because it was a tight community that they could relate to. They volunteered at a range of different schools from primary to university.

They had a slideshow running so we could all see the tough conditions they were living in. We saw how basic their classrooms were. They had no white boards, some had no desks or chairs, no electricity and not even any flooring!

The school days were the same each day, for 5 days a week. First- 2 hours of English, then 2 hours of Swahili, then to finish the day off, 2 hours of Arabian. It was hard for these young children to concentrate as it was consistently a soaring 40 degree heat. Even though they were surrounded by ocean the water did not cool them off as it was so hot from the consistent 40 degree heat.

The high schools were a bit more exciting, as they had more than 3 subjects. The girls also helped adults who wanted to have a good career so they could support their family. They taught them English, because some jobs available were working at hotels in the island.

For a bit of fun they took a trip to the safari. There was a bit of trouble landing as there was a giraffe on the runway. They would travel around on jeeps to look at the wildlife that were meters from them.

Once they got back from the jungle, they volunteered at the local hospital, which they said was awful. People refused to take modern medication, so they were forced to take it. Many in the small community got Cholera from having to drink dirty water. The girls were lucky that the African Impact program supplied them with bottled water.

Overall the girls enjoyed their trip and were trying to change their flights to a later date so they could stay longer, but they couldn't and had no money. They motivated many of the Year 7's to do the same when they were older.

Summer Sports
James Castles

On November 24th our annual HSSSA Summer Sports Competition was held against Cobden Technical College, Terang College, Timboon P-12 and Camperdown College. The day saw fantastic participation and enthusiasm by all students. The sports that we participated in included the following, Soccer, Cricket, Basketball, Softball, Tennis, and Golf.

The purpose of the day is to give the students the opportunity to part take in something different.

Thank you to Ebony Boyd, Amy Henry, Monique McKenzie, Alex Moloney, Jesse Gaut, Jake Cissold, and Niki Reichman for assisting on the day.
**Remembrance Day 2010**

*Report by: Laura Kemp, Mac Carlin, Will Milsom & Kieren Gleeson*

On the 11th November, we had a guest speaker, Mr. Dean Jeffery come and talk to the year seven’s at the O’Keeffe Campus about Remembrance Day. He told us a story about his close relations, fighting in the war. Mr. Jeffery spoke about how so much could happen in such a small space of time, he told us how his two great uncles where killed in the war but his Grandfather, the youngest in their family survived. He caught the Spanish Flu just before the end of the War and lost one lung but had a long lasting life.

Mr. Jeffery was wearing six medals from the war, each medal meant a lot to him and his military service, he was in the Navy and joined up when he was 15. It was great to have him come in and share with us his family story of the War.

Later on the same day at 10:40am Laura Kemp, Macaulay Carlin, Kieren Gleeson, and William Milsom all travelled with Mr. Wynd to Terang for a Remembrance Day service. They picked up their wreath and quickly hurried across to the War Memorial.

Laura and Macaulay placed the wreath on the steps of the War Memorial and then the Last Post was played. We had two minutes of silence and then the flag was raised to full mast. We then had a chat to some students from Noorat Primary about Remembrance Day.

Remembrance Day is a very important day to remember all the soldiers who fought and lost their lives in wars and we were grateful to be a part of the service.

**Noorat Show**

Students participating in Home Economics classes this semester, once again entered their work in this year’s Noorat Show. Year 7A entered in the category requiring four types of Biscuits, Year 7B Chocolate Cakes and Year 8C Novelty Cakes.

- Ian and Jamie Giddens 8C  First Prize
- Rhys Jansen van beek 7B  Second Prize
- Noah Stopp & Martinique McKenzie 7B  Second Prize

Students entered work in the Creative Writing section of the Noorat Show, the following students received prizes for their entry.

- Rachel Hiickey 8B  First Prize - Short Story
- Allie Eastwood 7D  First Prize - Writing
- Ruby Johnstone 8A  First Prize - Poetry
- Sam Henderson 7A  Second Prize - Short Story
- Hannah Moloney 7C  Honorable Mention - Writing

All students are to be acknowledged for their efforts and congratulations to all the students on gaining prizes in their respective Sections.
From the Director of Teaching & Learning
Lisa Pope

CAREERS REPORT

C.A.S. HAWKER SCHOLARSHIP
The 2011 C.A.S. Hawker Scholarships open on Monday 6th December, 2010 and close on Friday 7th January, 2011. The scholarships are available to all Australian students and since 1991 the majority have been awarded to students entering their first year of university study. Selection is based on personal qualities as well as academic ability and these scholarships, valued at up to $60,000 over four years, are available for a range of Australian educational institutions. More information and application forms are available at www.hawkerscholarship.org

ZOO KEEPER FOR THE DAY - HEALSVILLE SANCTUARY
Healsville Sanctuary is running “Keeper for the Day” programs in the January School holidays. It is suitable for Year 9 students upwards. The dates are Tues 11th or, Wednesday 12th or Tuesday 18th or Wednesday 19th of January. If interested you can Book on the following number 92859406 or email www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/HSKeeper_for_day

Work Experience 2011
There are quite a few permission slips that have not been returned for current Year 9 students going out on Work Experience from 21st February to 25th February 2011.

These forms MUST be returned by –
Wednesday 1st December PLEASE.

If you are having difficulties please advise James Castles or Maureen Adeney immediately.
In 1482, Thaddeus McCarthy was appointed Bishop of Ross but when he went to occupy his see, the Bishop discovered that the locals had ordained one of their own. He appealed to Rome and eight years later he was appointed Bishop of Cork instead. However, when he tried to occupy this see, Thaddeus was resisted once again. He travelled to Rome to sort things out and was officially confirmed as Bishop of Cork. On the way home, however, he died at Ivrea in northern Italy and was buried there.

That’s a true story. It brings to mind Jesus’ instructions when he sent his apostles into the surrounding towns for the first time. His last instruction was:

*If the people in the town will not welcome you, go outside the town and shake their dust off your feet.* (Luke 9:5)

That’s a very dramatic gesture – around that time, when Jewish people returned from foreign parts they shook the dust from their feet as a symbolic rejection of pagan lands. Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet when they left a village which had rejected them or, more accurately, their message (Acts 13:50). That didn’t stop Paul and Barnabas from trying again, nor did Jewish cease travelling abroad.

The point is that there are times when the Christian message is not well received, not welcome. We are all guilty of that – it is not always easy or convenient. There is a tendency when religious practice is in decline to try to sugar coat the message – to down play the hard bits. In reality, Christianity is not an easy option. It’s teaching on love and loving one’s neighbour can be easy enough – few of us are really challenged to step outside our comfort zones there. But Jesus’ teachings on the value of suffering, on embracing the cross in our own lives, on the sanctity and dignity of life, on justice and the rights of others can be very challenging.

It is also hard to stand up for and explain our beliefs in the face of horrific disasters and extraordinary human suffering or when confronted by the rising challenge of atheism, disbelief or even just indifference. It is much easier to embrace the good bits and just say, well I don’t really believe the other parts anyway. It is much easier to declare one’s self as ‘spiritually minded’, rather than adhering to one religion or another.

There are a number of occasions in the Gospels when people walk away; they find the message unpalatable, too hard - the rich young man, those who could not understand Jesus’ teaching about the Eucharist or his need to suffer. For others he just didn’t live up to expectations at all. During the years immediately after Jesus’ death, various groups began to interpret Jesus’ message to suit their own needs and purposes. In 2000 years, nothing much has changed there.

Jacob wrestling with the angel (Genesis 32, Hosea 12) is worth thinking about in this context. After fourteen years exile, Jacob is about to return home to confront the brother he has wronged. He is understandably very nervous and, on the night before he enters the land of Canaan again, an angel appears and they wrestle for most of the night. The angel Jacob wrestles is actually God. Faith as wrestling with God is a great image. Faith defies explanation at times. Believing challenges us to wrestle, to grapple with Jesus’ message and to live it out, no matter what. Sometimes it is not easy to believe, to stand up for what we believe. When Jesus told people they must eat His Body and drink His blood many left him. Jesus asked his disciples if they too wished to go away. Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life... (Jn 6:66). Later, Peter’s courage deserted him but ultimately he lived and died for what he believed.

There are times when the one bearing the message can be rejected. This is indeed a very tough time for the Church. Many people seem to be shaking the dust off their sandals when they leave the Church! The scandal of abuse has been well described as an earthquake, rocking the very foundations of the Church itself. It is time for full and frank admissions and genuine, heartfelt apologies to the victims and to the world at large. It is time to face with honesty and courage the root causes of the problem. Some have decided to discredit the messenger – they feel that someone (mostly the press) is out to get us, to discredit us. Trying to shift blame is the easy path. The hardest and most urgent course is to confront this issue which is devastating the credibility of the Church. There are still great pastors, committed laity, great institutions and organisations at the service of the Church and all people but the ability to spread the message of the Gospel is being compromised as long as this issue is allowed to remain. It is not just an issue for the leaders. We are all the Church. Spreading Jesus’ message is the responsibility of all who bear the name of Christian. Making our parishes genuine messengers of love and service is a call to all of us. Living what we believe is becoming more urgently needed.

There’s a twist in the story of Bishop McCarthy. After his death he became a focus of local devotion in Ivrea and a number of miraculous cures were attributed to him. He was beatified in 1896 and the people of Ivrea donated a relic of his to the Cork Cathedral in that same year.

Standing up for what we believe to be right, even being rejected is not always the end of the story – being faithful to what we believe has its own rewards!

Regards

Jim Quilliman

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

Shaking off the Dust 16 November 2010
REMINDER TO GET YOUR ORDER IN FOR THE MRC VCAL COOKBOOK
IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

The perfect gift idea!

MRC VCAL Cookbook

$15 per book with 150 pages
full of the MRC’s favorite recipes.

Please pay cash only.
Fill in the order form below and
return with the money enclosed in
an envelope to the MRC office.

Name:
Address:

Phone number:
No. of copies:
Money enclosed: