“I am the true vine, …… Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.”

Jn 15:1, 5

In referring to Himself as the true vine, Jesus reveals Himself as the Son of God. In other passages of the Gospels He refers to Himself as the living water, the good shepherd, the way, the truth and the life, the light of the world and the bread of life. These images tell us much about the mission of Jesus. We cannot live without water and bread or food. We can certainly do with some guidance and protection at times and living in darkness is depressing. We need the link to the vine to bear fruit, that is to live life to the full.

We are called to allow His mission to become our mission. He came to give us life in abundance; He offers peace and joy to all. During this week we can try to be hospitable to others by making them feel protected or by offering them some guidance; we may be able to brighten their day with a kind word.

"The simplest and most practical lesson I know… is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow."

Catherine McAuley

**Prayer**

Our God shares the fullness of our humanity, and calls us to honour and care for all those who share the joys and sorrows of our human pilgrimage. We pray that God will bless our companions in the journey.

Amen

**Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends**

Last Thursday we gathered as a Mercy Community to give thanks to God and to ask God to bless our new buildings and all who make use of them. Sixty special guests, including Sisters of Mercy who have lived at the Convent and members of current and past Leadership groups of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy joined students, staff and parents as we Officially Opened and Blessed the Mansfield Learning Centre and the Dublin House Administration Centre. These two buildings were built on the site of two of the former Convents of Mercy that were homes to the Sisters up until 2002.

We were delighted to have Sister Kathleen Tierney RSM, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation 2000-2011 Officially Open the buildings and participate with members of our community in blessing them. She was joined by the Institute Vicar of the newly formed Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Sister Annette Schneider RSM and the Community Leader of the Southern Region C of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Sister Faye Kelly RSM, Members of the Board of Mercy Education Limited, Advisory Council Members, Members of the Building and Planning Advisory Group, Parents and Friends Association Members, Principals of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools, a Representative of the Director of Catholic Education of Melbourne, the Architects Y2 Architects and the Builders 2Construct and other distinguished guests in this special ceremony.

Year 7 students and staff are already making excellent use of the Mansfield Learning Centre and the Dublin House Administration Centre is providing a welcome to all visitors to the College. I encourage students, parents and staff to read the various plaques linked to these new buildings. The choice of name for each building is clearly linked with our Mercy Heritage with Mansfield commemorating the founding Mother Patrick Ryan, Mother Agnes Ryan, Sister Brigid Bradshaw and Sister Catherine Ford who responded from Mansfield for assistance in establishing a Catholic school in Lilydale in 1896. Dublin commemorates the first House of Mercy established by Catherine McAuley in Dublin which provided hospitality, shelter and education for the homeless and sick of Dublin. The plaques on the walls of each of these buildings acknowledge this heritage.

At the front of Dublin House a brick wall with a cream brick cross insert commemorates the convents that previously were the home of the Sisters of Mercy until 2002 and pays tribute to the Sisters who were the hands, feet and compassionate heart of Jesus in Lilydale and surrounding areas for so many years. The plaque at the foot of the cross dedicates the cross to their memory.

The entrance to the main Reception area in Dublin House is marked by six Pillars of Integrity which have key Gospel values which guide our lives inscribed upon them. Take time to read and reflect upon these words.
STAFFING CHANGES
We welcome Nadia Fragnito to the College. Nadia will teach VCAL, Humanities and Sport classes to allow Janine Biggin, Peter Molinari and Michael Callanan to take responsibility for additional duties until Mr Hawthorne returns from leave. We also welcome Mr Yuta Akahane as our Japanese Language Assistant. Yuta will be here for one year assisting in our Japanese classes.

PLEASE PRAY
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Batsanes, the grandmother of Justin Batsanes of Year 11, Melissa Batsanes of Year 7 and past student Aaron Batsanes.

We pray that Margaret who shared her love with others will be welcomed into the fullness of life promised to her through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. May our prayers and support comfort her family and encourage them to look back on Margaret’s life with joy.

YEAR 10 RETREATS
Year 10 students commence their Retreat this week. Taking time to reflect and pray is an essential part of the life of a Christian. Our hope is that we will continue to grow and develop as human beings with Jesus as our role model and the retreats are an opportunity for students to reflect upon their journey to date and to reassess their future direction. I pray that they will find the experience enriching.

INDIGENOUS SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
The VicRoads Indigenous Secondary School Scholarship Program offers scholarships to Indigenous students commencing Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12, with preference given to students commencing Year 10. The Program provides financial assistance and practical support to successful applicants who remain enrolled and successfully completing studies until the completion of Year 12.

This scholarship aims to increase training and employment opportunities for Indigenous youth in Victoria by providing financial support for school related expenses. School related expenses may include, but are not limited to, tuition or tutorial fees; miscellaneous school expenses, school excursions; textbooks and stationery; school uniforms and school sports wear including school shoes.

Application forms and information leaflets are available from Mr Kamahl Russell.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal
Dear Mount Lilydale Families and Friends

Last Thursday we celebrated the official Opening and Blessing of our new facilities, Dublin House Administration Centre and Mansfield Learning Centre. It was wonderful to see so many Sisters of Mercy at our celebration and I am sure they were all so proud of the wonderful legacy of Mercy Education in action. The new facilities provide the best possible learning and working environment for our students and staff.

We are now looking forward to the completion of our much anticipated Chapel. This is due to be finished in September and will provide a wonderful, special and sacred space for our Liturgies and prayer times.

The building programs that have occurred over the past 12 months reminds me of the significant themes of "Leadership and Teamwork" both of which were discussed at our senior retreats. Both work so well together and perhaps you can’t have one without the other. Significant leadership and a great deal of teamwork occurred in the lead up to the completion of our major works program. As with those involved in the planning of our building programs, architects, builders, staff, committee members and parents – teamwork needs to be visionary for all to work collaboratively together. At our retreat we encourage our students to be leaders and as Year Level cohorts, work and support each other as a team.

All of the events on our term calendar, which is as busy as ever, reminds us of how well we work together as a College Community and indeed, as a team.

We are all part of teams. Our family is a team. Our school community is a team and our students are a team. The community groups we belong to are teams. Sometimes we are the team leader or "coach," while other times we fulfil the role of follower, or "player." It is so important then for us to understand teams and how they work, especially those who achieve success—the achievement of their desired goal – which needs to always be the focus for our students.

Here are some principles that I know, when implemented on a regular basis, can turn any team into an outstanding one! These principles can also be applied to your family, your business, your organization, and yes, even as students in their Year Level team.

**Communication/Leader:**
The leader needs to communicate the vision. If they are setting the pace, they need to let people know where they are going so that the team can follow. The coach always does a pre-game talk, laying out the vision.

The leader communicates the vision frequently, so as to always be updating the team as to where they are at and what changes need to be made. The coach doesn’t delegate the direction he or she gives to the pre-game, coaches and communicates all the way through the game.

**Team:**
Watch a good footy or cricket team. They are talking to each other all of the time. Helping one another out, encouraging one another, praising one another, and telling each other how they can make changes so the same mistakes aren’t made again. The same is true of successful teams in the professional world and in life in general.

**Excellence:**
The truly great teams are teams that are committed to excellence. In everything they do, their goal is to achieve at the highest level. And this commitment is held throughout the team and at every level. A successful team cannot have members who are not committed to excellence because in the end they will become the weak link.

**Followership:**
The secret to getting things done lies not only in great leadership, but in how well the rest of the people, 99% of the team, follows the leadership. Good teams are filled with people who are committed to following and getting the job done.

**Understanding Roles:**
Every team works best when the members of the team have clearly defined and understood roles. Some do one thing, others do another. One isn’t better or more important than the other, just different. When teams operate out of their strengths and their roles, they win.

**Strengths and Weaknesses:**
Every team member has strengths and weaknesses. The successful teams are those who on a regular and consistent basis enable the members to operate out of their strengths and not out of their weaknesses. And what is one person’s strength will cover another’s weakness. This is teamwork, enabling all of the bases to be covered.

**Fun:**
The team that plays together stays together. Is your team all work and no play? If you’re smart, that will change. Get your team out of the office or home once a month and go have some fun. Enjoy one another. Enjoy life. It will bring a sense of bonding that can’t be made even in “winning.”

**Common Goals and Vision:**
These need to have three aspects. Short, simple and clear. Can you say it in less than 30 seconds? Is it simple? Can you and others understand it? Does the team all know what they are working together for?

**Appreciation:**
All through the “game,” successful teams appreciate one another and show it in a variety of ways. The coach shows it to the players, the players show it to the coach, and the players show it to one another.

So as teachers and families in our Mount Lilydale team, let us continue to encourage each and every one of us to work together to maintain that winning formula.

David Finch
ATTENTION YEAR 12 STUDENTS

2012 WINTER SLEEPOUT IS HERE !!

YEAR 12 STUDENTS have the fantastic opportunity to participate in MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE’S WINTER SLEEPOUT.

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY 18 MAY COMMENCING AT 7.30PM AND CONCLUDING ON SATURDAY MORNING AT 8.30AM WITH A COOKED BREAKFAST.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED, PLEASE COLLECT A PERMISSION FORM FROM STUDENT RECEPTION AND RETURN ASAP.

DONATIONS !

THE SENIOR PREFECTS AND YEAR 12 STUDENTS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE FAMILIES WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR OUR 2012 WINTER SLEEPOUT WITH THE DONATION OF BREAD, EGGS, BACON, ORANGE JUICE FOR OUR COOKED BREAKFAST OR ANY UNWANTED BLANKETS, CLOTHING ETC WE CAN PRESENT TO ST VINCENT DE PAUL ON THE NIGHT OF OUR EVENT.

YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT CAUSE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID FINCH, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – DIRECTOR OF MISSION ON 9237 1373
FROM THE LOTE DEPARTMENT - Mr Salvatore La Fauci

The College would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would be interested in hosting Yuta Akahane our Japanese Language Assistant for 2012. We would like to thank the Edwards family who are currently hosting Yuta until he settles into the country. There are many educational benefits that can come from hosting a language assistant and for this reason this may be a good opportunity for your family to become involved in this cultural program. Host families will receive a fee for board of $120. If you would like further information or would like to host Yuta please contact Mr Sal La Faucci (Head of LOTE) at the College. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

FROM THE REGISTRAR - Ms Mary Ryan

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFERS
Please note that the signed acceptance of offers made for Year 7 2013, are due today.

TRANSITION EVENING.......This coming Wednesday
Who: Year 5 and 6 students and their parents
When: Wednesday 9 May at 6.45pm
Where: Beginning in Centennial Hall
Why: To give students and parents a ‘hands-on taste’ of some of the subjects offered at the College.
RSVP if you have not completed a slip from an earlier letter, please email the_reg@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au or phone Reception on 9735 4022 with your name and the number of people who will be attending.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The Parents and Friends Association meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Staff dining room at 7.30pm. We encourage all families to participate in the service and hospitality demonstrated by these parents. Please be assured that you will not be expected to participate in every activity because you come to the meetings. The aim is to share the tasks.
The next meeting is on Tuesday 22 May.

UNIFORM SHOP
The P&F Uniform shop will be open every 2 weeks, from 10 May, during the rest of Term 2 and Term 3 ie: week B. The shop is open from 12.00-1.30pm.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK
The 2012/2013 Entertainment book will be released soon. If you would like to order a copy please complete the order form below or contact Cathy Pote through Reception. The books are $65 each with $13 from each purchase going towards fundraising by the Parents and Friends.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
A big well done goes out to three students this month.

Simon Van Der Westhuizen, our very own Sports Captain, recently competed in the Nationals in Sydney. In his chosen event of Decathlon Simon placed 7th and completed Personal Bests in 8 of the 10 events, which is a fantastic effort.

Rebecca Dardengo, 11 White, has successfully secured a spot in the Victorian U18s Girls AFL team, which is great news. The team will be playing in the National Championships 14-19 May in South Australia. Good luck to Rebecca for the competition.

Sophie Fraser, 9 Jade, competed in the Open Section of the State Championships of Calisthenics on Monday 23 April. In an outstanding display of strength and flexibility Sophie stole the show with energetic rendition of Sweet Charity. Against the best in the state Sophie’s performance was recognised with a second place trophy. Well done Sophie!

Congratulations to Simon, Bec and Sophie for their successes. They are a great example of hard work and dedication paying dividends.

SENIOR EISM RESULTS
Only four senior EISM teams made the grade for Grand Finals last season. The two Boys Basketball teams and the two Girls Tennis teams played for the trophy at the end of a hard but determined season.

Boys Basketball A was successful in maintaining the domination they have displayed since Year 9, taking out the trophy again with an inspiring performance.

Sadly, Boys Basketball B and Girls Tennis A and B were overcome in the end, despite a valiant struggle. All three team played with skill and determination and were graceful in defeat.

YEAR 9 EISM RESULTS
Again, only four Year 9 EISM teams were strong enough to make the Grand Final. The Girls Basketball B, Girls Tennis A & B, and Boys Softball teams all had the honour of representing the College in another gruelling display.

Girls Tennis B and Boys Softball were awarded with the coveted trophy at the end of the day, having worked hard to achieve victory.

Girls Basketball B and Girls Tennis A were unlucky not to come away with the win, but represented themselves with skill and sportsmanship in their defeat.

Details of each week’s fixture, venues and results can be found at http://www.eism.org/

Details of each week’s fixture, venues and results can be found at http://www.eism.org/

Victorian Equestrian Centre
Upper Beaconsfield

DRESSAGE CHALLENGE
Monday 28th May 2012
$50 entry
Entry forms from Mrs Conway
BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN AND RAISING REAL PEOPLE

A Parent Seminar
At Mount Lilydale Mercy College
Presented by Clinical Psychologist
Andrew Fuller

A MUST FOR ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!!!

When: Thursday 24 May 2012
Time: 7.30 – 9.00 pm
Venue: Mount Lilydale Mercy College
        Centennial Hall
        120 Anderson Street, Lilydale

Hear from the expert in adolescents and resiliency
Andrew Fuller

Tea/coffee/biscuits provided. No cost to attend the seminar
Asthma, Coughs and Colds: Information for Parents and Carers

The common cold, caused by an upper respiratory tract infection, is one of the most common illnesses for children and adults in Australia. Colds are more common in winter months as people spend more time indoors, in close contact, and can be more likely to pass on viruses that cause the common cold.

Colds can be a trigger for asthma, and asthma management can become more difficult for children and teenagers attending school if they have a cough or a cold. Ensure your child reduces the risk of passing on coughs and colds by avoiding coughing or sneezing on, or near other people and that they wash their hands appropriately after blowing their nose or handling used tissues. Coughing or sneezing onto the inside of their elbow instead of their hands can also prevent the transmission of infections. If your child is unwell, it is recommended that they stay home and rest to reduce the chance of spreading infections and to give them a better chance to recover quickly.

While there is no known cure for the common cold, symptoms such as headache, cough and runny nose can be managed, and children with asthma are advised to see their doctor before using any medication, or herbal and natural remedies, as these may react with their asthma medications. Many cold and flu medications available over the counter are not suitable for children and teenagers, and some medications may also trigger asthma symptoms, it is best to avoid these unless recommended by your doctor.

People with asthma should avoid the following medications if possible:
- Aspirin
- Ibuprofen/Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications)
- Beta blockers tablets and eye drops (used for high blood pressure and glaucoma)
- ACE inhibitors (used to control blood pressure)

Saline drops and nasal sprays may help relieve blocked sinuses, and gargling with salty water may help relieve a sore throat. If cold symptoms become more severe, parents and carers are encouraged to consult their doctor as soon as possible for advice. Nasal sprays should not be shared between people as this may transmit infections and viruses.

It is also highly recommended that in the lead-up to winter, people with asthma ask make use of influenza (flu shot) vaccinations.

For more information on the common cold, medications and references used in this article please see the Better Health Channel (State Government of Victoria) - www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au and the NPS website - www.nps.org.au.

Asthma and School Holidays – Tips for Travel

When travelling it is important to be aware that different locations and environments may harbour triggers for asthma, particularly new triggers that you or your child may not have come into contact with before.
- Even if asthma is mild or has not occurred for some time, travel to a new destination can often bring about asthma symptoms
- People with asthma should always carry reliever medication and a spacer with them when they travel to ensure they can treat asthma symptoms quickly if they occur
- It is important that people with asthma take enough medication to last for the trip, and have repeat prescriptions with them if they expect to run out during the trip
- People with asthma should have a review with their doctor and update their Asthma Action Plan prior to the trip, so that a clear guide is available on what to do if asthma symptoms or an asthma attack occurs while on holiday
- Ensure that travel insurance adequately covers medical costs and needs while on holiday. Some policies may not cover for asthma treatment if a recent asthma emergency has occurred. Be sure to read the fine print or ask the insurance provider about their asthma coverage

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au
Mount Lilydale Mercy College Presents....

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

A light hearted comedy of villainy and romance, starring our students across all year levels.

It is a wonderful opportunity for parents and friends to see our students in action and be entertained at the same time with the wonderful acting and dancing, the dramatic set and the colourful costumes.

Performance dates
**Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May**
At 7.30

In Centennial Hall

Featuring the stars of Mount Lilydale Mercy College

**Cost of tickets**

- Adults - $17.00
- Students and Concession - $13.00
- Family (2 adults & 2 children) - $55.00

This year we have made the purchase of tickets simpler by allowing you to book online by following the prompts:

2. Click on ‘Continue Booking’
3. Make your choice of night you would like to attend
4. Select seats required and click ‘Continue Booking’
5. Select tickets required and click ‘Continue Booking’
6. Check tickets booked and click ‘Checkout’
7. Enter booking details and click ‘Continue’
8. Enter Credit Card details and click ‘Buy Now’
9. Click ‘Print’ to proceed and then ‘Print’ again to print your tickets.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CREDIT CARD OR INTERNET ACCESS YOU MAY CONTACT THE COLLEGE ON 9735 4022 TO MAKE ALTERNATE BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS