“Rabbuni” the blind man said to him, “Master, let me see again.”

Mark 10:52

The faith of the blind man is in contrast with that of his disciples, and perhaps some of us. This man could really see who Jesus is and what He is offering. The disciples, who should have known better, did not understand that Jesus was offering them eternal life, not power and favour now.

We are invited to really see Jesus and how He wants us to lead our lives. He invites us to follow him in our journey, as Bartimaeus did. During this week, try to show more enthusiasm in the way you pray or carry out works of mercy. Jump at the opportunities that may present themselves to you to enrich your spiritual life, like Bartimaeus did.

Dear Parents and Carers, Students, Staff and Friends

Best wishes to our departing Year 12 students on the way they have conducted themselves throughout the year and especially as they celebrated the end of their school education. They chose a theme to be a light animating all on the journey and they have done just that. They set an excellent example for others to follow and their example will leave an indelible mark upon all who follow in their footsteps. To hear the gusto of their rendition of Omnia Cum Deo and then to see them stand together and sing together the last song in their liturgy was just wonderful.

They are to be commended on their dignity, sense of community and the way they celebrated with true joy.

Best wishes to all who will participate in the VCAA Examinations which commence on Thursday November 1.
Mark Prest Award Nominations

I encourage parents, students and staff to submit nominations for the Mark Prest Award. A nomination process is attached and you can also obtain a copy from the College Website or from Reception. Please include some additional comments or a letter of commendation to provide background to your nomination. Nominations close November 9.

Sports Awards Night

The Sports Awards Evening gave all present the opportunity to listen to Mark Evans, the Manager of Football Operations at Hawthorn Football Club, and former staff member of the College, talk about the operation of a football department at the elite level of Australian Rules Football. The dedication and commitment required certainly provides our athletes with an insight as to how they can make the most of their talents.

Congratulations to all award recipients and all who participated in Sport at the College in 2012.

Years 7 - 9 & 10 - 11 Visual Arts Exhibitions

These two exhibitions showcased the creative talents of our students and serve as a reminder that we can all benefit from stimulating the creative talents that each of us have, even if they are well hidden at times. Creativity is more important today than it has ever been with the ‘market edge’ often being the creative aspects of electronic games, telephones, motor vehicles and other industries. I commend our Visual Arts staff on the way they encourage students to maintain their creativity.

Old Collegians’ Memorial Mass

The annual Mass to pray for all Old Collegians who have died will be celebrated on Saturday November 17 at 10.30am. Family members are encouraged to submit the name and date of death to the Communications Officer Mrs Leonie Ziolkowski so that these dates can be entered into the Memorial Book in the Chapel.

The Our Lady of Mercy Chapel honours all deceased Old Collegians and the new rose garden surrounding the Chapel is another memorial of those who have died.

Please Pray

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Ellen (Nell) Bennett and Gerardus Theodorus de Munk who passed away recently. Nell is a former Librarian at Mt Lilydale College and is grandmother to Isabelle Morgan (7 Jade) and many Bennett past pupils - Georgina, Eliza, Louisa, Anthony (& Kathy Rode), David, Mark, Steven & Jane, as well as mother in law to former staff member Pauline Bennett. Gerardus is the Grandfather of Business Manager Dean de Munk, father in law of past staff member Dianne de Munk and Grandfather of past students Ryan, Joel and Casey and Great Grandfather of Nathan.

We pray that like a shepherd Jesus who knows Ellen and Gerardus will welcome them to fullness of life and commend them for their lives of service and care of others. May their families give thanks for their lives and may this and their belief in the resurrection provide them peace and hope.

VCAL Presentation Evening

Parents and students are invited to attend the VCAL Presentation evening on Tuesday October 30 commencing at 7.00pm. The standard of work has been excellent his year and I congratulate the students, guided by the staff, on their achievements.

Nurturing the Whole Student

At the moment, Catholic schools are funded at 20 per cent less than government schools. Including school fees, this funding gap is 10 per cent.

Every effort is made to ensure that your child’s learning needs are met, so they can reach their full potential and achieve their best.

Our school seeks to foster a sense of community. Our teachers and staff work with you to develop the whole child: spiritually, emotionally, academically, physically, socially and culturally.

Students in Catholic schools are encouraged to engage with their communities, serve others and embrace social justice.

Our school needs government funding to help build a strong community that contributes to a better society.

For more information about school funding, please visit www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/funding.

Bernard G Dobson
Principal
CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL YEAR 12 STUDENTS

I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students on the manner in which they completed their formal classes and farewell activities last week. We encourage them to savour and celebrate the occasion - the end of formal education is a significant moment in life and deserves to be celebrated with respect and dignity for all. As we sometimes see in the media this is not the case for all schools. Our students conducted themselves in a manner that they can be proud of and will be able to look back on with fond memories. Special thanks to all staff members who have worked with the group during their time at the College and in particular to Mrs Janet Barr in her role as Year 12 Wellbeing Coordinator this year. The all important exam period is now upon us and our thoughts and prayers are with the Year 12 students as they conclude their preparation.

A reminder that summer uniform will be compulsory for all students from Wednesday, November 7. Monday, November 5 is a student free day.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND BATTLEFIELDS OF NORTHERN FRANCE

In 2011 a group of students participated in a pilgrimage to the Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland. This was combined with the World Youth Day festivities in Madrid. In 2013 the opportunity to experience the pilgrimage to Dublin will once again exist. In order to make the trip a worthwhile experience given the distance involved we are looking at adding a tour of the battlefields of northern France. In order to do this we need to gauge the level of interest. The trip will be available to students in Years 10 & 11. The tentative dates are July 12 – 24 which means it starts at the end of the Term 2 holidays and concludes at the beginning of the second week of Term 3. Cost is to be finalised and would depend on numbers but a figure of $4,500 would be an approximate. Students who apply would need to show why they are interested in the pilgrimage aspect of the trip as well as their interest in the tour of the battlefields. An expression of interest letter addressed to Mr Dobson (including a supporting statement from parents) should be left at Student Reception in an envelope marked Dublin Pilgrimage 2013. Closing date for this is Thursday November 8.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students
On Tuesday October 23, the school experienced its first "Bunjil’s Nest" day. “Bunjil” – the eagle and the creator in the Wurundjeri legends, holds a special place in our community, for it has been the symbol of courage and leadership that has been used in Year 9 for the past 4 years. The “Bunjil” badge is highly regarded by the students for the acknowledgement of their leadership and courage characteristics, so it was fitting that Year 9 was chosen by the National Gallery of Victoria to create the nest.

The activities really started on the previous Sunday when Healesville Year 9 students and families were invited to a stick gathering BBQ at Mr Hill’s property. Fittingly Mt Riddell (the Wurundjeri’s recognised resting place for the spirit of Bunjil) overlooks the property.

On Tuesday morning, Murrundindi (the head man of the Wurundjeri people) performed a welcome to the land with the traditional smoking fungus and possum cloak. His simple but powerful message to the students set the theme for a great day and he impressed all who witnessed this spectacle. He mentioned Barak, Bunjil and the moiety of the Crow (Waa). As he spoke a raven landed on the post as if to validate what he was saying.

All of the Year 9 classes then had an opportunity to hear Rosemary Etherton from the National Gallery of Victoria speak about the need for sustainability and how for 40,000 years the aboriginal custodians, looked after the land. She showed paintings from the NGV depicting the stories of the land which we now occupy.

The students then wrote messages of “hope” on the sticks provided and the nest building then began. It quickly took shape and we are proud to say that it is a strong as the one that the wedge-tailed eagle constructs - albeit a little more colourful and certainly more meaningful. To end the double period each student plaited a red, black and yellow wrist band (which they will be allowed to wear at school) to commemorate the day. The recognised symbolism of the colours is; that red represents the soil, yellow the sun and black the people, however Rosemary added some particular significance to the friendship bracelet by saying that RED meant they had to learn something new about the Wurundjeri people, YELLOW was to remember Bunjil and what he stands for and BLACK was for them to do one new thing to help the environment.

We were very fortunate to have Michael Dale (one of our teachers) available to help explain the aboriginal ways and an elder of the Wurundjeri people, Alan Wandin, present for the afternoon session to give us a Wurundjeri perspective. It was especially meaningful to have three generations of Wurundjeri people, Kayla, Brooke and Alan Wandin putting their sticks into the nest to conclude a wonderful cultural day.

Thanks goes to Murrundindi for rescheduling the morning, Julie Hanman from the Yarra Ranges Shire [who co-sponsored the day], Alan Wandin, Rosemary Etherton and Jill from the national Gallery Victoria and Sarah Bell from Regional Arts Victoria. A special thanks goes to Brooke Wandin-Collins also from the Yarra Ranges Shire who was totally involved in the day and will work with us next year in presenting a similar program for the 2013 Year Nine students.

Terry Hill
Year 9 Wellbeing Coordinator
Old Collegians' Memorial Mass

The Old Collegians' Memorial Mass will be held in the new Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians' Chapel on Saturday November 17 at 10.30am. Please contact Patricia Olson or Leonie Ziolkowski regarding those you wish to be remembered on 9237 1356 or email: oc@milmilydale.catholic.edu.au.

Old Collegians’ Scholarship

The Old Collegians’ Association has established a Scholarship which will be awarded for One Year covering tuition fees for a student entering Year 12 2013. Please refer to the attachment or Website for the selection criteria. Applications close Friday November 9 2012.

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATIONS FOR 2013 VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW OPEN

Further information and application forms are available from the Music Office.

Dr Paul Curtis
Music Coordinator

FROM THE REGISTRAR

YEAR 10 GIRLS, IT’S TIME TO THINK ABOUT BUYING YOUR DEB DRESS!

The Parents and Friends are happy to facilitate the opportunity for people to buy and sell Deb dresses, shoes and jewellery on Tuesday November 20 from 5pm to 8pm in McAuley Hall. There is no need to book and there is no charge to bring your goods in to sell. We do suggest that you bring your shoes if you have them or another pair of heeled shoes when trying on the dresses, as they will always look better.

One of our parents owns the silk bridal dress shop in Ringwood and is happy to come on the same evening with samples of dresses to try. She sells made to measure dresses and, if you have your shoes, she can also make the dress to the exact length (which saves $100’s in alterations costs and no surprises)!

BOOK FORUM

This year we will again have the book forum on our website for you to buy and sell your text books. I urge all families to use this as it is a great way to save money. Further details will come when the book lists are distributed.

Mary Ryan
Registrar
This week we have pleasure in publishing the final poem from the Poetry Competition. The Year 7 winning entry is by Maddie Cottier.

Too much for someone like me

Heartbreak and agony are the only things that cross my mind in a time of sheer depression like now.
My soft eyes bleed heavy tears.
My small heart aches heavy pain.
Too much for someone like me to handle.
You can't help but feel useless when lives are being lost and all you're doing is nothing.
All those soldiers risking their lives to save ours.
It just doesn't seem right.
Aggravation and fury fill my bones to the very point of utter depression,
as I acknowledge the many mistakes I've made.
For this I salute my ancestors and honor the many great things they have achieved and faced.
To my feet I stand and take my first step towards being me.
For that is who I shall be.

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

LIBRARY NEWS

BOB STEWART UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will not be open on the Cup Day Long Weekend
Closed Saturday November 3
Closed Monday November 5
Closed Tuesday November 6

The Uniform Shop will reopen on Thursday November 8 from 12.30-4.00pm
We will be open on Saturday November 10 from 9.30am-12.30pm
Normal Hours will resume:
Monday 12.30-4.00pm
Tuesday 12.30-4.00pm
Thursday 12.30-4.00pm
1st Saturday of each Month from 9.30-12.30pm

Telephone School Shop: 9735 4370 | Bob Stewarts: 9853 8429
The Scholarship will be for ONE year and will be tuition fees ONLY.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- The scholarship is available to a child of an old Collegian who is currently at the College
- It will be awarded to a Year 11 student for entry into Year 12.
- The academic standard of the recipient should be such that he/she is able to take full advantage of the subjects provided by Mount Lilydale Mercy College.
- Commitment to the Catholic faith must be displayed.
- The recipient should embrace the Mercy ethos, reveal a positive school spirit as well as a desire to work for the overall good of the College whilst as a student and later as an Old Collegian.
- Evidence of participation in community based activities such as social justice, music, public speaking, sport or drama.

An interview will be conducted with a panel of the Principal, Deputy Principal Students, President of the Old Collegians and the Executive Officer.

Should there be no applicant who is the child of an Old Collegian, the scholarship will be available to the general Year 11 student body.

Consideration may be given to a student experiencing financial hardship.

Interviews will be conducted in Term 4 and the Scholarship awarded on the Night of Excellence.

Name of Nominee: ..............................................................................................................
Name of Old Collegian: .......................................................................................................
Signature: ...........................................................................................................................

Class: .................................................................
Year attended the College:..........................
Date: .................................................................

Please attach a Statement addressing the above criteria and forward to:

The Executive Officer
Old Collegians' Association
120 Anderson Street
Lilydale 3140

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9 2012
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE

MARK PREST AWARD

To commemorate our much loved and admired Deputy Principal, who commenced at the College in 1996 and became Deputy Principal in 1997, the College Executive has named an annual award for an ‘educationalist’ in his honour. Mark had a deep love for his God and was passionate educator who had a deep sense of the school community. He listened, accepted and embraced all the people he found in his life. Mark demonstrated strength during his own battle with illness and throughout his life he was willing to be a ‘shelter in a storm’ for others. He was a deep thinker and came to believe strongly in the stewardship model of leadership.

The award will be presented annually to a member of staff who most exemplifies Mark’s educational philosophy and witness as judged by the following criteria which embody the spirit of Mark as an educator. It is expected that the recipient of this award will reflect many of these characteristics.

Mark:

- had a passionate respect for the dignity of each person
- set a public example of integrity, love, commitment and awareness each day
- showed empathy and concern for the welfare of others
- fostered genuine, honest, authentic, compassionate and just relationships
- had a healthy sense of tolerance, acceptance and openness
- was filled with the excitement of teaching
- was a courageous and committed learner
- aspired to and encouraged excellence
- exhibited a quality of teaching which opened up learning to others
- encouraged a love of learning in others
- was willing to take risks and learn from experience
- believed that teaching mattered
- fostered a strong climate of community involving students, teachers and parents
- had a sense of civic responsibility and pride
- contributed to the social and spiritual environment of the school

The selection of the winner will be made by a special panel. The Members of the Selection Panel will be the Principal, an Advisory Council Member, two Staff Members and one Student (a Student Leader).

I wish to nominate .......................................................... for the Mark Prest Award

Signature of Nominator: .........................................................

Please attach a Statement addressing the above criteria and forward to the Principal by 9 November 2012.