Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’

Jn 2:13-16

Jesus was angry at the misuse of the Temple. People were exploiting it and also the people who came to the Temple to pray prior to the special feast of the Passover.

Jesus is often upset at the exploitation of others, especially the poor. This is probably why he treated the pigeon sellers differently as they were serving the poor who could only afford to buy a pigeon to offer in sacrifice. The rich could afford cattle and sheep and no doubt they paid inflated prices for service so close to the temple. The temple was the centre of worship of God for the Jewish people and Jesus challenges the practice of sacrifices and replaces it with worship of himself, as the new temple. We now worship God through Jesus.

What are the abuses that Jesus, and therefore we, should be angry about today? How can we respond as his hands and feet in the world? How can we express some ‘righteous anger’ about something this week? What inequality, injustice, human rights abuse and unethical behaviour can we challenge this week?

Prayer

*We pray that in a world of violence, abuse and denial of human dignity we may be lights in the darkness.*

Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and Friends

**College Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to the students, staff and parents who attended an excellent Swimming Carnival last Monday evening.

**Staff News**

Mrs Margaret Kirkwood will be taking leave from her position as Accounts Receivable Officer from today. I wish her every best wish for a relaxing and enjoyable break. Mrs Michelle Jones will be replacing her and I welcome her to the College.

**Catholic Education Week and Special Persons’ Day**

Welcome to Catholic Education Week. Today we welcome to the College Grandparents, God Parents, Siblings, Aunts and Uncles and other Special Persons in the lives of students. They will have time to visit classrooms and well as participate in a welcoming ceremony and a special morning tea.

A group of students will accompany Mr Finch and myself to the Eucharistic Celebration for the Archdiocese at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Thursday.
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK ART EXHIBITION

Congratulations to students whose work produced last year, on the theme of “Throw Open the Doors – Let in the Light”, has been selected for the Catholic Education Week Visual Arts Exhibition 2012. You may wish to enjoy their work and that of other students on Sunday March 18 at the Victorian Artists’ Society Gallery located at 430 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

Madeline France and ‘London At Night’;
Nicky Bibo and ‘Sarah’;
Jo Van der Linden and ‘Golden Oldies’; and
Riley Gentle and ‘An Untitled Series’.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Athletics Carnival will hopefully be held on March 16. This is a community day and as such compulsory attendance is required. Students who cannot compete due to illness or injury can still assist the House Leaders or Staff and I ask that they register their willingness to provide this assistance before Friday. In the event of inclement weather, the Carnival will be held on Friday 23 and Friday classes will operate as normal.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GUEST SPEAKER AT YEAR 11 SEMINAR

The guest speaker for our last seminar was Fernando Pires from Caritas Australia. To promote Project Compassion Fernando spoke of some case studies he has been involved in East Timor with prison guards and emphasising human rights, with cases of domestic violence and also supplying fresh drinking water to people in villages. Students in Year 11 were asked to donate even the smallest contribution as in a developing country the smallest amount of aid can assist greatly. Students were encouraged to collect the 5 cent pieces they often leave around and donate them to Caritas. This could be a project for all students.

PLEASE PRAY

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Olga Short, the grandmother of Joshua Short of Year 9 and past student Hannah Short.

We pray that she may walk in the light of the presence of God having given her life to God and others. May her faith carry her thought the shadow of night and may the sun shine on her for ever. May Olga’s life journey inspire those who mourn her to endure.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - DIRECTOR OF STUDENTS - Mr Michael Johnston

A reminder about the World’s Greatest Shave that we will be supporting in aid of the Leukaemia Foundation. In 2012 we will conduct our fundraising activity on Friday, 23rd March (assuming we do not need to use this day as a back up day for our Athletics Carnival). On this day students will have the opportunity to have hair colour applied or have a Number 2 ‘buzzcut’ by a qualified hairdresser. Both of these options require a permission form to be completed. A copy of this is attached to the newsletter and can also be collected from Student Reception.

Best wishes to those students who are representing the College at the EISM Swim Carnival on March 13. The squad have been very committed to their training schedule and we hope they can achieve their best times. Thanks to the very dedicated staff who have been working with the squad - two early morning training sessions per week.

We hope for fine weather on Friday of this week for the Athletics Carnival. It is as much a celebration of community as it is an athletics event. House meetings last week gave students the chance to sign up for the various events and we look forward to strong participation across all year levels. The clear expectation is that all students will be in attendance.

There is a meeting for students and families involved in the Italy Study Tour. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 20th at 7pm in McAuley Hall. In late September a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students will spend a bit over three weeks enjoying the wonderful sights of Italy. About 10 days will be spent with host families at our sister school in Casale Monferrato in northern Italy.

Early notification that Term 1 concludes on Friday, 30th March at 2.15pm due to the early arrival of contract buses. Students who travel on MET bus services will need to be aware that normal timetables operate on this day for those services. These students can either arrange alternate transport home or wait at school until the usual bus departure times. Staff will be supervising the bus bay area on this day until approximately 3.45pm.

Term 2 commences on Tuesday, April 17 for all students.

Michael Johnston
Deputy Principal – Director of Students
We hear of Jesus’ forceful reaction to the abuse of the temple – his Father’s house – by the traders and moneychangers.

Jesus’ dramatic cleansing of the temple is the sign of God’s action in the world. The wrong he observed moved Him to action. This week’s Project Compassion story comes from Zimbabwe, where because of prolonged conflict and drought, thousands of people remain displaced and peace is fragile. With the additional burden of HIV-related illness, and the stigma that accompanies it, Colletta and her family, like many others, were reduced to extreme poverty.

In partnership with Caritas Australia, the local church is working to improve life for those who struggle under these conditions. Health care, sanitation, agricultural improvement and peace-building programs are having their effects. The community is being healed as poverty, illness and trauma are gradually being driven out.

Although we do not have the same knowledge of the human heart or the authority to act that Jesus had, we can, nevertheless, detect injustice and, in righteous indignation, as Jesus did, take forceful action against it.

We can show our solidarity with communities living in poverty, our compassion to those struggling against discrimination and stigma and our preparedness to challenge injustice. As Pope Benedict XVI said: “Our hearts cannot be at peace as long as we see our brothers and sisters suffering”.

If we want peace, we must work for justice. This season of Lent is a time for us to recommit to it.

The inspiring story of Colletta from Zimbabwe – a participant in one of Caritas Australia’s development programs whose life has changed with your support.

Zimbabwe was once known as the ‘breadbasket of Africa’, yet enduring conflict and prolonged drought has since reversed this prosperity. By 2008, almost one-quarter of Zimbabwe’s population had fled the humanitarian crisis to neighbouring countries. Today, thousands of people remain displaced and debilitating poverty continues to threaten the nation’s fragile peace.

Colletta lives in Chirumanzu, a district ravaged by Zimbabwe’s brutal conflict. But seven years ago, Colletta was not caught up in the violent struggle for land, she was bed ridden with tuberculosis, found to be HIV positive and fighting for her life.

The sole breadwinner for her family, Colletta struggled to support her elderly mother, two sons and two nieces in her care. Colletta recalls that time with sorrow:

The people of Zimbabwe deserve to live in peace after a decade of political and economic destabilisation. Your contributions have returned smiles on the faces of distressed families. Lives have changed. Hope has returned.”

Brother Blazio, Caritas Gweru

“I had nothing. I had lost hope in life. I couldn’t afford food. I didn’t have money to buy seeds. I found it difficult even to give my family one decent meal per day. Sometimes I sent my children to look for food from neighbours. We were labelled a family of beggars.”

“The biggest challenge our community faced was due to conflict. People had no money, poor nutrition, no safe water or sanitation. Most kids were not going to school.”

At the height of Zimbabwe’s political and economic crisis, most of the international community’s aid and development efforts were suspended. But thanks to the strength of Caritas Australia’s local church partnerships, your support continued to provide food, temporary shelter, psychosocial support and peacebuilding workshops in Zimbabwe’s poorest communities.
As the humanitarian crisis continued to unfold, Caritas not only ensured the provision of life-saving aid but also worked across all eight dioceses to build resilience and foster lasting changes for the most vulnerable families.

Colletta’s family is just one of many to have benefited from your solidarity. “I realised that the projects being talked about could really change my life for the better. I knew it was the only chance to again work for my family,” she said.

Together with our local partner, Caritas supplied the seedlings and equipment to create a village garden, enabling Colletta and her community to grow vegetables and medicinal herbs. Slowly, her health has improved.

But like all of Caritas Australia’s holistic community development programs, our work in Colletta’s village extends beyond the provision of food security. Through our local partner, Caritas Gweru, the program sought to rehabilitate boreholes and wells destroyed by conflict and overuse, improve sanitation through hygiene training and household latrines, and rebuild livelihoods for the long-term protection of human dignity.

Colletta’s community now has safe water to drink and to replenish their gardens. “I was involved in the rehabilitation of our village borehole and am in the water committee – we’ve been trained to make repairs to keep the borehole working.

“My household sanitation has greatly improved since I received a latrine, pot rack and refuse pit through the project. This has reduced diarrhoea among my family.

“Caritas has taught us that these projects belong to us. We care for them in the same way we take care of our household goods. The fact that we are owners of the projects ensures they’ll continue long after Caritas is gone,” said Colletta.

As healthcare remains beyond the reach of poor families, Caritas Gweru has also trained volunteers to provide home-based care for people, like Colletta, living with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses. Colletta is on Anti-Retroviral Therapy and has enough food to make the medication effective.

“Physically, I’m now stronger and can work in the garden. My family’s nutrition has greatly improved. I produce and sell excess vegetables to pay school fees and other expenses.

“Actually, my social standing in the society has elevated, as others now respect my family. I believe there is life after infection after all.”

Slowly, attitudes in Colletta’s community have changed, livelihoods have improved and more children are going to school.

*Peace gives us the opportunity to work freely without fear. Families have more time to work in the gardens and their fields and squabbles have reduced. My only wish is that my children continue attending school and that I have a long life.*  
Colletta

To Support Project Compassion with these many inspiring stories, our College Prefects will be conducting a number of fundraising activities in the last few weeks of term, including a cake stall next week and a sausage sizzle the week after.

Please refer to the separate advertisement in this week’s newsletter. Your support is certainly appreciated.

David Finch  
Deputy Principal – Director of Mission

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**Year 8 Purple – Class Mass**

The students of Year 8 Purple had the honour of preparing and participating in their class Mass – pictured here with Father Bob.

*During Term 1, all Year 8 RE classes will prepare their own Mass and students will invite parents and grandparents to join them in our Eucharistic celebration together.*
Thank you to the parents and staff who helped with the BBQ at the recent swimming carnival. We are now looking for help on Friday 16 March at the Athletics Carnival. This is a very busy day as food and drinks are required for sale to the students throughout the day. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on Friday will you please contact me by Wednesday via the email address below.

As there are still girls who have not purchased their Deb dress, the Parents and Friends Association will be holding a ‘pre-loved’ dress and accessories sale on Thursday 22 March from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. If you would like to sell a dress please email the_reg@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au

Mary Ryan
Registrar

This week we launched OLIVER 5 our portal for accessing our comprehensive library resources and services including print materials, websites, ebooks, audiobooks, reference materials and videos via clickview.

**THIS SERVICE IS ACCESSED VIA SIMON AT THE COLLEGE AND FROM HOME THROUGH MOODLE.**

To access OLIVER 5, the library resources database, from home please use MOODLE and enter Library & Information Services.

From the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Database Search click on the links to access our RESOURCES.

Library Opening Hours for 2012

**Barak Library**
Monday - Thursday 8:00am to 4:30pm Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm
Barak Library is open for two weeks in the September break.

**McAuley Library**
Monday - Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm

Please feel free to contact me on 9237 1367 or email iaconey@mlmclilydale.catholic.edu.au if you have any queries.

Andrea Coney
Head of Library and Information Services

Victoria Premiers' Reading Challenge

It is by reading that we learn more about the lives of others and deepen our understanding of the world around us. Fiction helps us discover different views of the world, to embark on imaginary adventures and to empathise with others in situations both similar and different to our own. Non-fiction can teach us about far-off places, our own culture and beliefs and the beauty of creation.

In this National Year of Reading all students in Years 7-9 have the opportunity to participate in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge. The challenge is to read 15 books, some from a specified booklist and others of the student’s choice. Information and a consent form has been sent to each family. This will explain how students can record their reading online. The consent form will allow the student’s name to be printed in The Age on completion of the Challenge. Please return it to your child’s Home Room teacher.

I am looking forward to record participation in the VPRC this year. We certainly have many students who would enjoy the challenge. So get reading!

The website for the VPRC is at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/. If you have any further questions regarding the VPRC please contact Miss Katie Stanley in McAuley Library.

Katie Stanley
McAuley Library

FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

All Senior students will be getting a Careers Newsletter in Homeroom at some time this week. This is a very important edition of the Careers Newsletter as it contains a lot of information about Open Days, Career Events and Information Sessions.

Please make sure you collect your copy in Homeroom and take it home to read. If you need any more information, please visit the Careers Resource Centre.
**AN UPCOMING EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED**

**TWILIGHT CINEMA ON THE COLLEGE OVAL**
**THURSDAY 22ND MARCH**

A fun family evening and massive outdoor screen. An alcohol and smoke free event

**“HUGO” PG**

*Hugo* was nominated for 11 Academy Awards, making it the most nominated film of 2011. *Hugo* also won two BAFTAs and was nominated for three Golden Globe Awards

**DISCOUNT PRE TICKET SALES AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH YOUR CHILD’S HOMEROOM**

**ADULTS $10.00**

**SECONDARY STUDENTS $7.00**

**CHILDREN $5.00**

**FAMILY PASS (2 ADULTS & 3 CHILDREN) $25.00**

Snack Bar and seating opens at 7:00pm. BYO picnic blanket or deck chair. Movie screening commences at 7.30pm

Senior VCAL Students are hosting this event.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Australian Family Association invites you to hear

**Dr Kevin Donnelly speak on:**

**The Right to Choose Your Child’s School Implications of the Gonski Review**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7:30pm**

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College
78 - 81 Willesden Road, Oakleigh, Mel Ref 69 D6

Contact: Ann-Marie Kiely, P. (03) 9816 0830 E. a.m.kiely@family.org.au
SEASONS - A PROGRAM FOR GRIEF AND LOSS

The Counselling/Wellbeing team are proposing to run another Seasons Program next term. Seasons is a peer support program developed to help children and young people cope with the grief and feelings of loss resulting from separation, divorce and death.

The Seasons Program is based on the concept of the "seasons of the year" as an image, not only of the particular moments in time when grief and loss is experienced in a specific way, but also the changes and movements of grief over time. Just as the seasons of the year are dynamic, so are the changes in the feelings of children and young people as they resolve their grief. Seasons is not a therapy program but rather a peer support program guided by a trained adult.

The Seasons Program was developed by Centacare Catholic Family Services in Australia, in response to 60 years experience of working with individuals and families through counselling. Seasons creates a safe place for sharing and valuing of memories, and exploring each individual’s story of grief. Seasons provides children and young people with the opportunity to ask questions and express dreams and hopes, by acknowledging, normalising and integrating their grief.

A ten session program of around 40 minutes a session, comprising of about 6 students per group will be set up next term to work with our School Wellbeing Coordinator – Ms Tina Tasiopoulos.

If you think your child would benefit from being part of this group, please contact Ms Tina Tasiopoulos on 9739 2246.

Tina Tasiopoulos
Wellbeing Coordinator
YARRA RANGES BLUE LIGHT DISCO
FRIDAY 16TH MARCH 2012
MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE - BRICE AVENUE MOOROOLBARK
ENTRY $ 5.00

- 12-15 YR old only
- Doors open at 7 p.m NO ENTRY AFTER 7:45 P.M
- Pick up 10:45 - 11:00
- Any patron leaving early must be accompanied by an adult guardian
- Supervised by local police and youth organisations
- No Passouts, No smoking, No Drugs or alcohol permitted.
- Anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Bring your dancing shoes and have a great time in a safe, fun environment.
- All the latest hits to dance to;
- Door prizes and other prizes to be won;
- Drinks & snacks available at our canteen.

CONTACT MOOROOLBARK POLICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PH. 9725 9999
2012 Mount Lilydale Mercy College Athletics Carnival

When: Friday 16th March
Time: 8.45-3pm
Track, Field, Ball Games and Novelty Races.
What to wear– Sports uniform or to change into house colours at Quarry Road.
Parents and Families Welcome
“Come run & have some Fun”
give permission for ______________________________________________________
(name and homeroom) to have
(Please circle your choice)

(A)  a Number 2 "buzzcut" (performed by a qualified hairdresser)

OR

(B)  “Cinta” coloured hairspray applied

at the College on Friday, March 23rd 2012 as part of the fundraising effort for the World’s Greatest Shave.

CONTRIBUTION TO FUNDRAISING IS $5.00 FOR EACH ACTIVITY.

In completing this permission form I acknowledge the activity and any risk involved and release Mount Lilydale Mercy College and the Leukaemia Foundation from any liability arising from my child participating in this activity. I understand that the hair colouring to be applied will wash out under normal circumstances. Please check with a hairdresser if you are uncertain about this.

Please return this form to Student Reception or to Mr Johnston.

Parent Signature: ____________________________________________
Date: ________________________________________________

CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

The Mount Lilydale Mercy College Prefects would like your support with our first fundraiser for Project Compassion.

We are having a cake stall at recess and lunchtime on Wednesday 14th March.

We would like families to support us with the donation of cakes, donuts etc for our stall.

If you are able to assist please send them in with your son/daughter on Wednesday morning – to deliver to Student Reception.

Your support would be much appreciated.

With thanks – Social Justice Prefects
Mount Lilydale Mercy College Senior VCAL students wish to invite you to a night at the movies at their Family Twilight Cinema on the College Oval

THURSDAY MARCH 22nd at 7:30pm
(BYO Picnic Rug or Deck Chair)

Seating & Snack Bar opens at 7:00pm

CURRENT RELEASE MOVIE ONLY AT THE CINEMAS
Nominated for 11 Academy Awards and 3 Golden Globes

Please forward completed order form & payment to:

VCAL Twilight Cinema
Mount Lilydale Mercy College
120 Anderson Street
Lilydale VIC 3140

Name: ___________________________  Contact Number: ___________________________
Homeroom: ______________________________

Number of tickets required
Adult ____________ ($10.00)
Teen ____________ ($7.00)
Child ____________ ($5.00)
Family ____________ ($25.00 - 2 adults, 3 children)

Total payment : $ ______________________________

Cheques payable to Mount Lilydale Mercy College
NO CASH TO BE POSTED

If you wish to pay by Credit Card please contact Finance Department at Mount Lilydale Mercy College on 9739 2209 and ask to place a Credit Card Order.