Jesus said, “This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:12-13

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

God of peace and love, on this 11th day of the 11th month we remember. We remember that in Jesus of Nazareth you have called us to be people of peace saying, “Blessed are the peacemakers” and reminding us that we are to love our neighbour and our enemy as we love ourselves.

But we also acknowledge that there are times when we, as a global community, fail to live out those words; times when young men and women hear the call to don the uniforms of their country and serve under their flag.

Today we give thanks for all who have chosen to serve their country. We give thanks for their bravery, their commitment, and their love.

But we know that when armies meet on the field there are always some who don’t come home.

And so we pause in the memory of those who went and did not return to mothers and wives and children left behind.

And now, God of love, as we have remembered and honoured, we prepare to go back into our everyday lives. May the remembering we have done here today reawaken and strengthen our commitment to work for peace, true peace. Help us to remember that peace will never truly come from a gun barrel but from the depths of our hearts. Help us remember our calling to be peacemakers at home and abroad, in the big things and in the small. And may we never forget the cost that has already been paid.
Dear Members of our Mount Lilydale Mercy College Community

As we continue into this beautiful month of November, the key foci in most secondary schools including ours here on ‘The Hill’, is the finalisation of assessment tasks, exams and preparation for next year (2014) and looking to the future. It bodes well to reflect on the past and pay our respects to those that paved the way. To be grateful and respectful of those that sacrificed of themselves that we may have, and this applies to many walks of life.

As previously highlighted we start this month of remembrance with “All Saints” and with the concept that we are remembering the heroes and role models that have worked to be an example for us. The second day of the month is “all Souls” whereby we remember and pray for the souls of all those that have faithfully departed this world. Both are very important.

Our special prayer this week prepared for us by our Deputy Principal Mission, Ms Elizabeth Keogh and Youth Ministry Trainee, Jo Van Der Linden, reminds us that November is also the time that we focus our attentions on Remembrance Day which is special in Australian and the Commonwealth history. Perhaps as a day of Remembrance it is slowly being eroded as ANZAC day becomes our National Day to remember those that fell in time of war, but one should not replace the other.

For me Remembrance Day is special because I will always associate it with the Shrine, which was built and paid for by the people of Victoria, and that ray of natural sunlight which passes through an aperture in the ceiling of the Sanctuary and falls onto the Stone of Remembrance over the word ‘love’ at precisely 11.00 am on 11 November each year. This is the moment when the armistice was signed in 1918 marking the end of hostilities in the First World War.

The Australian War Memorial provides a detailed explanation for Remembrance Day and its significance in Australian history; a part of which is reproduced for you here.

‘Remembrance Day tradition
Why is this day special to Australians?
At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes’ silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Hone, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice “which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom”. The two minutes’ silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the Unknown Soldier’s tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.’

Rest assured that Remembrance Day will be a focus here at Mount Lilydale Mercy College with the appropriate commemorative processes and with Mr Johnston taking a number of our student leaders to the local cenotaph for wreath laying ceremonies. Let us all ensure that prayer is an essential part of that Day.
Importantly November 11 is also an important date in all Mercy Ministries as it is the date that marks the passing of Catherine McAuley who died on this day in 1841. A recent newsletter associated with all Mercy Schools marked this occasion with this prayer which has been adapted from both the morning and evening prayer of the Sisters of Mercy. Hopefully each and every one of us will find a moment in the silences of the day to pray. I will ask homeroom teachers to make this our morning prayer for the week.

On this anniversary of Catherine McAuley’s death we remember her and all Sisters of Mercy who have given their lives in service to others, and so we pray:
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.
We pray for each of us, that we may be a steady influence for good on this earth:
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.
We pray for hearts free from anxiety and fear and full of self-surrender:
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.
We pray for trust in God’s providence during times of doubt and difficulty:
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.
We pray for all who are nearing the time of their own death, that the hope of life eternal will comfort them:
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.
We pray for the Sisters of Mercy throughout the world and for their co-workers, that Catherine’s life and death may continue to call us to embrace the spirit of hospitality and service.
We are yours, O God, for time and eternity.

Sadly, and whilst talking of Remembrance, last Sunday staff member Kathy Harris lost her mother, Gabriella Nemeth, who passed away peacefully in her sleep after a prolonged illness. Let us pray for Gabriella, Kathy and all those who have lost loved ones at this time.

God bless

Philip A Morison
Principal

SAVE THESE KEY DATES

VCAA Exams 30 October – 21 November
Year 11 Study Day – 7 November
Year 11 Exams – 8 November to 15 November
Year 12 Graduation – 21 November
Year 12 2014 – Academic Foundation Program – 18 November to 27 November
Year 10 Exams – 22 November to 27 November
Year 11 2014 – Academic Foundation Program – 28 November to 5 December
Year 9 Core Exams – 25 November to 28 November
Year 11 Awards Ceremony – 28 November
Year 7 Awards Ceremony – 4 December
Year 8 & 9 Awards Ceremony – 5 December
Year 10 Awards Ceremony – 6 December
Final Day Year 11 – 28 November
Final Day Years 7 to 10 – 6 December
Please note that 29 November is a student free day
Annual Night of Excellence Monday 16 December. Students receiving awards will receive notification. It is an expectation that students attend on the evening to receive their award. Students are required to RSVP for this event.
Last week Intermediate VCAL students celebrated their achievements and thanked local organisations who were involved in the Responsible Community Challenge (RCC), a program that aimed to foster positive community partnerships. The organisations involved were:

- Dixon’s Creek Landcare
- Organic Empire Mt Evelyn
- St Vincent De Paul Society Lilydale
- Lakeview Childcare
- Como Park Childcare and Kindergarten
- Monkami Centre
- SCOPE
- Pallotti College
- Yarra Glen Primary School

The celebration event was managed and hosted by the students. They were given a brief asking them to beautify the new undercover area on Catherine Way, where the event would be held and produce gifts for local organisations attending. These tasks provided the students an engaging way of meeting VCAL outcomes.

With the approval and support of the school maintenance crew, student groups constructed five large planter boxes which were made of treated pine sleepers. The boxes were painted, lined with geo-cloth, and filled with scoria rock to help with drainage.

Other groups worked on gift hampers. Everything in the hampers was handmade, including sugar scrubs, lavender bath bombs, moisturisers, chocolate coconut balls and mini hedgehogs.

The organisations who attended showed appreciation for the hospitality shown, the gifts received, and the efforts of the students. Congratulations to all students and organisations who have contributed in making this year’s RCC a rich and authentic learning experience.

Steve Tarulli
Applied Learning Coordinator

Come and Join Us

We celebrate Mass every Thursday morning at 8am in the College Chapel.

All are welcome, staff, students and members of the community.

Please join us when you can.
**DEB DRESS SALE**

**SELL and BUY**

**DEB DRESSES, SHOES, ACCESSORIES**

**AFTER-FIVE DRESSES**

**Tuesday 19 November 4 to 6pm**

**McAuley Hall**

Dresses for sale can be delivered to McAuley Hall on Tuesday before recess if required or after school. Photos of the dress and accessories can be displayed to assist with the sale.

For further enquiries please contact the Registrar Mary Ryan

the_reg@mlmcilydale.catholic.edu.au

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**Old Collegians' - 20 Year Reunion**

A 20 year reunion will be held at the Coach and Horses, Ringwood, on Friday 16 November. All students from the class of 1993 are welcome. For further enquiries please contact Erin Weinberg at erinweinberg@hotmail.com

**Memorial Mass**

A Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday 17 November in Our Lady of Mercy Old Collegians' Memorial Chapel at 2.00pm followed by afternoon tea. A blessing of plaques in the Rose Garden will also take place. A Memorial Book has been placed in the Chapel and all members of our community, both past and present, are invited to submit names of Old Collegians for inclusion. For any enquiries please contact Leonie Zielkowsk or Patricia Olson at the College or email ziolkowl@mlmcilydale.catholic.edu.au or olsont@mlmcilydale.catholic.edu.au.