**Summary of Mercy Day 2019 at Catherine McAuley Westmead**

Mercy Day at Catherine McAuley Westmead began with the whole school gathering together for Mass, concelebrated by Very Rev Peter Williams VG. EV. Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, Father Walter Fogarty, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart and Father Denis Andrew, Parish Priest Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The school was honoured by the presence of the following Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Barbara McDonough, Past Principal: Sr. Mary Louise Petro, Congregational Leader, Sr. Maria Lawton, Congregational Vicar and Bursar, Sr Margaret Sheppard and Sr Helen Stannard.

Special guests who also joined the school on the day included: Mrs Mary Creenaune, Acting Director System Performance, Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta; Mr Mark Pauschmann, Principal Parramatta Marist High; Mrs Elizabeth Devlin, Principal Mother Teresa Primary School; Ms Natalie Misfud, Acting Principal Sacred Heart Primary School; Dr Sabine Pillar, Vice President of Catherine McAuley Parents and Friends Association; Mrs Vicki Baiada, President of Catherine McAuley Alumni Association. The school also welcomed parents and families of the newly elected Student Leaders.

Following the Mass was the initiation of the Student Leaders for 2019 - 2020 with the Student Leaders receiving their badges in the presence of the whole school community and their families. A morning tea was held with Student Leaders and their families after this event and was catered for by the school’s Hospitality students.

Once the formalities of the day are completed the school grounds are transformed into a carnival type atmosphere. For 2019 the theme for the Mercy Day celebrations was *‘Super Solos, Dynamic Duos, Terrific Trios and Golden Groups’* with students and staff dressing in costume. The theme is chosen each year by the Student Representative Council. In addition to the dressing up the day has a real sense of fun with a variety of activities organised by the House Patrons. In 2019 these activities included dodgem cars, a super slide, a jousting pole, haunted house, photo booth, staff baby guessing competition, Lego championship, carnival games ... plenty of food from homemade baked goods through to doughnuts, fairy floss, popcorn, hot beverages...and then a burger and popper for lunch provided by the P&F. Other activities included face painting and an OP shop.

All money raised on the day goes to Mercy Works and their projects in Timor Leste. The day concludes with a dance in Dobson Green, a fitting conclusion to what is always a great Mercy Day at Catherine McAuley!