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**St Joseph’s College**

**September 17, 2019**

**Celebration of the Mercy Tradition**

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**Celebration of the Mercy Tradition at St Joseph’s College, Mildura.**

**SETTLE STUDENTS AND WELCOME  
Dr Tony Finn**

**PRINCIPAL’S ADDRESS  
Mrs Marg Blythman**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY   
Bethany Quayle**

****In the spirit of reconciliation, St Joseph’s College recognises that it is situated on country for which the tribes of the Latje Latje people have been custodians for many centuries and on which they have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We acknowledge their living culture and unique role in the life of this region and offer our deep appreciation for their contribution to, and support of, our academic enterprise.

We also pay respect to the Elders, past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.

**RORY RIBARITS AND JENNA HARRISON:**

Welcome to our celebration of the Mercy Tradition. McAuley House has much pleasure in facilitating this celebration

Catherine McAuley living in Ireland, heard the cry of the poor and homeless. Her response was “*the poor need help today, not next week*”. She committed her life to these people and the need to show this love. She did not want girls, women and children to cry out, and not get a helping hand.

A helping hand is present in the lives and actions of this Mercy Order, in Catherine McAuley and her desire to stand up for all people that were in need.

The Mercy Sisters started small. Initially there were three; Catherine and two companions, however this number blossomed. In 10 years the Order of sisters had spread across Ireland and into England. After Catherine’s death there were sufficient numbers of Mercy Sisters to provide help and assistance to people in Newfoundland, the United States, Australia, South America and New Zealand. The cry for help was being answered.

We are here today as a living example of the hard work of the Sisters gone before and the Sisters working all around the World including Sunraysia.

Please stand for Fr Mick and for representatives of our Mercy Community to celebrate our Sister’s of Mercy.

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

*Fr Mick processes in led by representatives of the school community:*

Ms Sophie Quinlivan Mercy Candle (Community Candle)

Ellie Scott Bible   
Grace Harrison Glass image of Catherine   
Rachel Tassone Suscipe Prayer  
Jamieson Howard Suscipe Candle  
Jenna Harrison Mercy Action Group Badges  
Kevin Simmons Altar server – Mercy Cross  
Tamika Hall Image of Catherine  
Fr Mick

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

***Grace Like a Wave – Elevation Worship***

**Performed by:** Jacinta Baker

**Accompanied by:** Ali Soebardi (Drums), Cody Morrish (Bass),   
Tom Hermans (Electric Guitar), Paris Cocks (Piano)

**GREETING**

**Celebrant:** We gather today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Celebrant:**  The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**MERCY CANDLE  
Charlize McKinnon**

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of mercy that burns in our schools and in our hearts as we celebrate our Mercy Charism. We remember the sisters who opened our school and all the teachers and children who have kept the Mercy Spirit alive through the years until today.

*(Using the 2019 Candle flame* ***Morgan Vadlja*** *is to light the new 2020 Community Value Focus Candle.)*

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask the Father’s forgiveness, for God is full of love and mercy.

**Celebrant:** Jesus, you give strength to those suffering oppression.   
Lord Have Mercy.

**All: Lord Have Mercy.**

**Celebrant:** Christ, Son of God and healer of the sick and of those in need of help.  Christ Have Mercy

**All: Christ Have Mercy**

**Celebrant:** Jesus, you came to bring peace and to let all people know the love of God. Lord Have Mercy

**All: Lord Have Mercy.**

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

**RITE OF PEACE**

**Celebrant:** Mercy incorporate forgiveness and peace. Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of the Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*Share the sign of peace with those around you.*

***INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC  
Performed by: Connor Grzan (Acoustic Guitar)***

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray;

God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call humanity to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters as our example and guide, help us to reflect Christ’s Mercy. Fill our hearts with the spirit of your love so that we may love you by loving others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading Acts 4:32-34**

**Jamieson Howard:**  A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** **27.8**

**Sung: Trusting Psalm 32**

**Performed by:** Soane Fatai, Phyllis Tabacco.

**Accompanied by:** Jack Morrish (Acoustic Guitar)

***Lord Let Your Mercy Be On US***

***Refrain: X2***

*Lord let your mercy be on us*

*As we place our trust in you.*

***Verse:***

*The word of the Lord is faithfulness and love*

*God’s love can never be measured*

*God’s beauty is like nothing we have ever seen,*

*So let us place our trust in him.*

***Refrain:***

*Lord let your mercy be on us*

*As we place our trust in you.*

*As we place our trust in you.*

**PLEASE STAND for GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Performed by:** SJC Choir

**Accompanied by:** Paris Cocks

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

**Celebrant :** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Gospel According to John ( John 13:34-35)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

**Reflection by Sr Helen Nolen rsm**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSIONS**

**Celebrant:** God is the source for all our actions. Our whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer. So as we gather here today we lift our voices to you God of all nations as we pray.

**Zach Hickey:**

For the leaders of our country, that they be guided by God’s Mercy to lead our community with fairness and truth. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Ellie Scott:**

For the staff and students at our College, that in complex situations they will walk in the Lord’s footsteps to live and act in the world with respect and compassion. Lord Hear Us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Tom Midgley:**

For the families, neighbours and friends, that they be enabled by the spirit to live in love for one another and to display God’s mercies. Lord Hear Us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Holly Harmer:**

In a world created through your love and challenged to make you present, may we teach others as Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters, to see your face in all people and in all creation. Lord Hear Us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Isabella McDonald:**

In a world which hungers for meaning and searches for you, may we at St Joseph’s College be people who are working for Mercy, Compassion and Justice, in the College, the Community and the World. Lord Hear Us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Ryan Bosman:**

For those in our communities who are sick, poor or mistreated, may we be assisted to bring them healing and hope. Lord Hear Us

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Indiana Spratt:**

For the Sisters of Mercy, that they continue to help and support those in our communities. May the service and courage they reflect inspire us to do the same. Lord Hear Us.

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**Celebrant:**

Father, we bring these prayers and all the prayers of our hearts before you, believing that you will answer them according to your will. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Preparation of the Gifts: *Instrumental Music by Laney Smith (Flute)***

***Procession of Gifts:*** *Gifts will be brought forward:*

Candles Altar Server to come down

Grapes Grace Harrison   
Wheat Santino Ribartis  
Bread Giselle Ribarits,   
Wine Joseph Dimasi

**PREPARATION OF GIFTS**

**Celebrant:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Celebrant:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

**All: Blessed be God for ever**.

**INVITATION TO PRAYER**

**Celebrant:** Pray, brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at our hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - PLEASE STAND**

**Prayer over the gifts:**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offering which we bring from the abundance of your gifts. May we be strengthened to show your mercy in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just.**

**Celebrant:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father of mercies and faithful God.

For you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son, as our Lord and Redeemer.

He always showed compassion for children and for the poor, for the sick and for sinners, and be became a neighbour to the oppressed and the afflicted.

By word and deed he announced to the world that you are our Father and that you care for all your sons and daughters.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we exalt and bless your name and sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**All: Performed by: SJC Choir  
Accompanied by: Matthew Mandica**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

**Celebrant:** You are indeed Holy and to glorified, O God, who love the human race and who always walk with us on the journey of life. Blessed indeed is your Son, present in our midst when we are gathered by his love and when, as once for the disciples, so now for us, he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.

Therefore, Father most merciful, we ask that you send forth your Holy Spirit to sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, on the night of the Last Supper, he took bread and said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,**

**FOR THIS IS MY BODY,**

**WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, gave you thanks and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,**

**FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,**

**THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,**

**WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY**

**FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

**Celebrant:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

Performed by: SJC Choir   
Accompanied by: Matthew Mandica

*Save us Saviour of the World, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

**Celebrant:** Therefore, holy Father, as we celebrate the memorial of Christ your Son, our Saviour, whom you led through his Passion and Death on the Cross to the glory of the Resurrection, and whom you have seated at your right hand, we proclaim the work of your love until he comes again and we offer you the Bread of life and the Chalice of blessing.

Look with favour on the oblation of your Church, in which we show forth the paschal Sacrifice of Christ that has been handed on to us, and grant that, by the power of the Spirit of your love, we may be counted now and until the day of eternity among the members of your Son, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Bring your Church, O Lord, to perfect faith and charity, together with Francis our Pope, and Paul our Bishop, with all Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and the entire people you have made your own.

Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters; inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who labour and are burdened. Make us serve them truly, after the example of Christ and at his command. And may your Church stand as a living witness to truth and freedom, to peace and justice, that all people may be raised up to a new hope.

Remember our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the peace of your Christ, and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known. Admit them to rejoice in the light of your face, and in the resurrection give them the fullness of life. Grant also to us, when our earthly pilgrimage is done, that we may come to an eternal dwelling place and live with you ever; there, in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the Apostles and Martyrs, and with all the Saints, we shall praise and exalt you through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. Amen

**All: Performed by: SJC Choir   
Accompanied by: Paris Cocks**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

**COMMUNION RITE – PLEASE STAND**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**Celebrant:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as wait the blessed hope and coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

***Eucharistic Ministers:***

Fr Mick, Fr James, Mel Ficarra, Ken Knight, Alicia Hancock Chapman, Louise Higgins, Rebecca Paget, Lauren Dixon, Sonia Opie, Phil Opie and Marg Blythman. (Spares Greg Kluske and Tony Finn)

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### ***Paula Cox – Communion Instructions:***

Communion is a time of personal prayer and reflection.

By not speaking at this time we allow ourselves and others to think

about how God may be calling us in 2019 to work in the spirit of Mercy.

Catholic & Orthodox Christians may receive Communion.   
Please place the host into your mouth immediately after receiving it.   
Students from other churches or religions may receive a   
blessing by crossing their arms on their chest and coming forward   
with those receiving communion.

**COMMUNION SONGS**

***Catherine’s Song***

**Performed by:** Jacinta Baker, Soane Fatai

**Accompanied by:** Jack Morrish (Acoustic Guitar), Matthew Mandica (Bass),  
 Laney Smith (Flute)

***Hands of Mercy***

**Performed by:** Soane Fatai   
**Accompanied by:** William Fangaloka (Piano), Jack Morrish (Guitar)

**REFLECTION SONG**

***Circle of Mercy***

**Performed by:** Lily Bruhn

**Accompanied by:** Laney Smith (Flute), Jack Morrish (Acoustic Guitar)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - PLEASE STAND**

**Celebrant:**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our participation in this Paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen**

**Mr Greg Kluske**

I would like to invite the Sisters of Mercy present today and our student presenters to come forward.

***The Sisters will receive flowers at the bottom of the stairs by***

***Anna Joseph, Mary Sunna, Frances Strubelj and Skye Kempton***

**Mr Greg Kluske**

Thank you for all the work and sacrifice you and all those part of the Mercy Tradition have made. We will now have a blessing from Fr Michael.

*The Celebrant will use the following blessing.*

**Celebrant:** Loving God,

We the community of St Joseph’s College,

Seek your blessings on these women,

your faithful servants of Mercy.

May you always walk with them:

In all that they do,

In all that they be,

In all that they say.

May you bless their work in bringing your kingdom to this world.

May you bless and strengthen all their relationships as a community.

May they continue to be a voice for the poor, the outcast, the oppressed and all your people who are in need of care and compassion.

We bless these sisters of Mercy

In the name of our merciful God:

The Father,

And of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

**Mr Greg Kluske:**

We call forward all the Mercy Action Group members to receive their badges from The Sisters of Mercy.

**(Pause for students/staff to come forward)**

*The Sisters of Mercy and Fr Mick will now bless our Mercy Action Group members to continue their good work in the area of social justice.*

*Sisters move towards Fr Mick and say the following blessing together:*

**Celebrant:** Loving God,

We the community of St Joseph’s College,

Seek your blessings on these young adults,

your enthusiastic servants of social justice and Mercy.

May you always walk with them:

In all that they do,

In all that they be,

In all that they say.

May you bless their work in raising awareness of social injustices in the World. May they continue to be a voice for the poor, the outcast, the oppressed and all your people who are in need of care and compassion.

We ask this blessing on these students through Christ Our Lord Amen.

**ALLIE LITTORE AND RUBY SPRATT**

Catherine McAuley’s prayers, while composed in the mid-nineteenth century and reflective of the language of the times, powerfully express the faith and the confidence in God’s providence that characterized her life and her work. She weaves into her prayer her own struggles, the miseries of others, acceptance of the divine plan in all things and a deep desire to be transformed each day into the person God wanted her to be.

## **THE SUSCIPE OF CATHERINE MCAULEY:**

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.   
Teach me to cast myself entirely   
into the arms of your loving Providence   
with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.   
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,   
That whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.   
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;   
let nothing sadden me but sin,   
nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You   
my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Celebrant:** May the joy of the Father be with you always.

**All: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May the love of Jesus the Son of God be a part of your life.May the peace of the Holy Spirit be in your heart.

**All: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** May Almighty God bless you. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**.**

**All: Amen**

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN  
*Send Us Out – Genevieve Bryant***

**Performed by:** Dominique Panuccio, Soane Fatai

**Accompanied by:** William Fangaloka (Piano)

*Procession – Mercy Action Group Leaders to lead, followed by Sisters of Mercy and other members of the Mercy Action Groups. Leaving last is Fr Mick*

*All to have a photo outside by Darren*

*After this morning tea provided for Mercy Action Group students, Sisters of Mercy, Leadership, Band, singers and Fr Mick.*

**THANK YOU *-*** **Zachary Hancock and Grace Phillips**

On behalf of the Staff and Students of St Joseph’s College, we would like to thank a number of people for their efforts in organising and leading our liturgy today. Thank you to the maintenance staff who assisted with the set up yesterday and this morning. Thank you to the musicians, singers and readers who assisted during the liturgy.

We would also like to thank Ms Quinlivan for her support and leadership in our planning for today’s liturgy. We were ably assisted by the McAulely House Captains who were very willing to lead by example today.

We would like to make special mention of the leadership of Fr Mick who has been our College Chaplain this year. Please show your appreciation of Fr Mick.

Saving the best until last, we thank the Sisters of Mercy who are here present today, and those unable to be here. We have a wonderful school because of the selfless commitment of the Sisters of Mercy for over 110 years in Sunraysia. Our College will always be grateful for this contribution and we will always work to build on your works.

The ice creams that we will enjoy after Mass are the continuation of a tradition established by the Sisters. We have been especially fortunate to hear from Sr Helen who has helped us to see what it means to live the Gospel, bringing the compassion and mercy of Jesus to those people in need. Thank you especially to the Sisters of Mercy for your presence today and for your example of Mercy in our lives.

**MESSAGES & DISMISSAL**

**Dr Tony Finn**

*The Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Action Group Members, College Leadership, Musicans and Singers, Altar Servers and Celebrants are invited to have some refreshments after Mass in the Mongahan Centre.*