

## MERCY MASS

Continued...

Our celebration focused on the Story of Mercy, how 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.

During our Mass, Sr Helen Nolen focused on her own personal Mercy journey, from growing up in a small rural town to working in schools and Indigenous communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and overseas in Timor Leste. Sr Helen is now back close to her roots, to family once again but this does not allow her to become complacent to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Sr Helen reminded us about the call of Catherine: "the poor need help today, not next week" is a challenge to speak up, to speak out for injustice, wherever it rises. In her reflection she posed questions of; 'where is the face of mercy, of compassion needed today? Where is the edge beckoning you to offer a helping hand?' Sr Helen reminded us the tradition of Mercy belongs to each of us who have been touched by the life of Catherine of Dublin. With rapid diminishment the baton is shifting from a majority of Sisters of Mercy to a majority of co-workers affiliated with MERCY. That means us. We are being called to action, to live our the values of our College.

Following Mass the students received an ice cream, a tradition established many years ago by the Sisters of Mercy at the College for Mercy Week. To continue our celebrations of Mercy Week the Mercy Action Group students held 'Catherine's Bake Sale' on Wednesday September 18. While on Thursday the Wellbeing and Music departments with Mercy Action Group will hold a BBQ stall and Student Music Concert to raise awareness of R U OK day. Finally, on Friday students will have a Footy Colours casual clothes day where students will donate a gold coin. All Money raised during the week will go to Mercy Missions and Mercy Works.

**Miss Paula Cox**

*Director of Catholic Identity*