Key Dates

Friday 7 December
Final Day Year 7 - 10
END OF TERM 4

Saturday 15 December
Second Hand Book Sale
8.30am - 10.00am (Hall)

2013
Tuesday 29 January
Year 8 - 12 new students Welcome Day 1pm - 3pm

Thursday 31 January
Year 7 Welcome Day
Year 7 Parents Morning Tea 8.30am
Year 11 NDU Workshop
Year 12 Rising Generations

Friday 1 February
Year 7 Welcome Day
Year NDU Workshop
Year 12 Ball

Sunday 3 February
Prefect Family Picnic

Monday 4 February
All Students on Campus

Tuesday 5 February
Year 10 Parent Information Evening

Thursday 7 February
Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Sunday 10 February
Year 7 Family Picnic

Monday 11 February
College Photographs
Year 12 Parent Information Evening & Soiree

Tuesday 12 February
P&F AGM 6.00pm

Principal’s Report

“As let us more and more insist on raising funds, love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God — the rest will be given.” Mother Theresa

As the academic year draws to a close we are aware that we have also entered the season of Advent our time of preparation for the feast of Christmas. In his Christmas Message, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe reminds us that ‘Christmas proclaims what, deep down, we have always known: that the truest meaning of our lives, and the deepest fulfilment in our lives, is to be found in that attitude of mind and heart which leads us to reach out to others with compassion, with healing, with forgiveness and with love.’ During these next weeks we pray that we can deepen our love for one another and strive even more to live our College values of Compassion, Justice, Service, Integrity and Excellence. We ask God to remove anything from our hearts that may hinder us from truly embracing the peace and hope of Christmas and for God to keep in our hearts the knowledge that each person we meet is the face of Jesus and that others see that face reflected in our own, brought to life in our actions.

Words can never capture the amazing year that we have had. The young women of Mercedes have excelled and done themselves proud in so many areas — service, academic, sport, all co-curricular areas, faith and spirituality and leadership. Sometimes it is hard to believe that they fit so much into their lives and do it all with such grace, generosity and dignity. They would only be able to do it with the support of a loving and generous family, life-giving friendships with peers and the encouragement of our College staff.

This year has brought home to me more than ever the importance of the partnership between home and school. There have been a couple of incidents that have been a particular challenge for us as a school. Whilst the issues have taken place outside the school the difficulty is that in many cases the demarcation line between what is and is not school-related conduct is often blurred. Many parents believe that school leaders are not entitled to investigate and discipline students for conduct outside the school. Sadly, it is rare that serious issues of uncaring behaviour do not impact on life within the school. The vital ingredient is that home and school work together to empower the girls to take responsibility and move on. This is the role modeling that our young

Insight from Catherine McAuley:

Another month ended, that seemed but a few days begun. If we have not forfeited the friendship of almighty God, but have been trying to love Him more and more, and to serve Him faithfully, they were blessed days for us.
Advent Musings from the Mission Leader

Sunday, 16 December 2012: Third Sunday of Advent - Year C

Gospel Reading used at this week’s Advent Liturgy

**Gospel**

**Lk 3:10-18**

*What, then, must we do?*

Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John the Baptist might be the Christ? His teaching in the first part of this week’s gospel might just as easily have come from the mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us just how much John was preparing the way for Jesus: even his teaching was in line with what Jesus would later say. In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptised by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John’s response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. To the crowd of people, he instructs them to give away a second tunic to someone who doesn’t have one at all and to share their food with those who are hungry. Thesethemes of justice and hospitality that will echo throughout the gospel of Luke are clearly evident in this episode with John.

Given the abundant kindness of the College Community with their 40+ baskets for this year’s Advent Appeal and $800 for The Mercy Romania Project it is clear our students understand the importance of generosity at this time of the year. The families receiving baskets this year have all come out of the ministries supported by the Sisters of Mercy, where many of them teach English to newly arrived families and have requested welcome packages for their students and their families at this time of the year.

Generosity, Hospitality and Justice, three very important values for our Mercy Community that will guide our Preparing, Waiting and Hoping this Advent!

women need – caring and responsible adults who have the courage to face the truth and to do the right thing because it is right. That's integrity.

As the girls prepare to leave behind another year, I hope they can each say that they have given of their best, that they have lived our College values as best they can in every aspect of their lives, that they have walked in the footsteps of Jesus in the service of others, that they have made prayer an integral part of their daily lives and that they have been truly grateful for the blessings they have been given. I pray that people will always recognize our girls as young Mercy women because of the words they say, what they do and the welcoming, unconditional love with which they meet those less fortunate than they.

I would like to thank all our very generous parents who have given so much of their time to the College this year as volunteers - the many ‘Friends of Mercedes’ groups, the parents who help out in the Canteen and the uniform shop, the Mums and Dads who often come to help out at special College events, the parents, grandparents and other family members who support the girls in their many activities. I know it’s almost impossible to say ‘No’ to Jackie! I would especially like to thank the P&F Executive and the parents who come along to the P&F meetings and the members of the Mercedes College Advisory Council. At the end of this year, Mr Colin Keogh, Chair of the Council, will be standing down after many years as a member of the Council, previously the College Board, and a key figure in the transition to Mercy Education Limited. As a former Mercedes parent, Colin has been dedicated and passionate about ensuring that Mercedes College remains true to its Mercy foundation and provides the very best education to its young women as possible. Thank you Colin from the Mercedes College community.

I would also like to acknowledge the priests of our Cathedral parish – Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Monsignor Michael Keating, Father George James and Father Jean-Noelle Marie. At no time is anything too much trouble and the contribution they make in ensuring our liturgies are sacred and relevant is always appreciated. At our Advent Liturgy this morning we acknowledged Monsignor Michael Keating’s Jubilee – his celebration of 50 years of Priesthood. It was a privilege to be able to present Father Michael with a gift on behalf of the Mercedes College community and to thank him for his constant support and advocacy of our College.

I thank my colleagues on staff for their never ending generosity in giving many hours of support to our students. Without their high expectations and encouragement of the girls to strive for excellence, Mercedes would not be the excellent Catholic school that it is. Finally I thank the girls of Mercedes for being outstanding witnesses to our Mercy charism and for always doing themselves, their families and the College proud.

I wish all our College community a very joyous Christmas and pray that we remember the true meaning of this holy season by participating in parish liturgies and keeping prayer central to our daily lives. Keep safe all who are travelling.

Peace and best wishes.

*Sheena Barber, Principal*

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**2013 Booklists**

To access Booklists for all year groups please go to [www.officemaxschools.com.au](http://www.officemaxschools.com.au)

The College password is MERCED213

Due to the delay of the Booklists the Second Hand Book Sale has been postponed to Saturday 15 December from 8.30am to 10.00am.

**College Photo Day - Term 1 2013**

*Monday 11 February*  
(Homeroom, Individual and sibling photos)
It is difficult to believe that this is the final newsletter for the year! I think back to the very first day of Year 7 and it is amazing how much the girls have matured and grown over the past four terms. The transition journey has been different for every one of our students; however they finish the year knowing that they have acquitted themselves admirably and have well and truly become members of our Mercedes College community.

The Year 7 Final Assembly was held last week and it was great to see many students receive Awards for their contribution to the homerooms during the Year. Last week’s Year 7 Geography Big Day out to the Perth Zoo was also a highlight. A big thank you must go to Mr Richard Swindail, Mrs Swee Johns, Mr Tim Poga, Mr Patrick White and Mrs Arletta Ralph for their organisation of the Geography Big Day Out and for accompanying us to the Zoo, in addition to the Year 7 PC Team who also joined us on the day.

Now that the countdown is on to the holidays, it is important for the Year 7 students to reflect on their year. What have you learnt? What has surprised you about yourself? How can you make things even better for next year? I would like to give my personal vote of thanks to the Pastoral Care Team for 2012. They have given me unending support this year and have taken the greatest care of your daughters.

On behalf of the Year 7 Pastoral Care Staff, I would like to wish all Year 7 students and their families a happy and peace-filled Christmas and New Year. We thank you for your support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you next year!
Year 8 - Mrs Melissa Trolio

In my first year as Year 8 Coordinator I have had a key role in working with the Year 8 Pastoral Care team in the care of our students who are enthusiastic and exceptional young women. The year has shaped many of our students into fine leaders of the College in future years to come and it has been a real delight to witness the many talents on display in the Year 8 community this year. This was evident in the commitment of many students to the co-curricular activities offered by the College. The last week of term saw students enjoy an action packed day in the heart of Fremantle on their Arts Immersion Day, where students creative skills were put to the test with puppet making, a workshop at Bizircus and also the opportunity to view the puppet show The Velveteen Rabbit. Special thanks must go to Mrs Kathleen Cocks and the Arts learning area for organising a brilliant day out. Finally, our year could not have been as successful as it was without the tireless efforts of our Year 8 Pastoral Care Team. Many thanks go to our homeroom staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment to our Year 8 students. My best wishes to the Year 9 students of 2013. May God bless you in all that you strive to achieve and I encourage you to continue your time at Mercedes with the same dedication and enthusiasm I have witnessed in 2012.

Year 9/10 Learning Community

Year 9 - Mrs Sherrin Adams

Congratulations to the huge number of girls who were presented with Certificates at our last assembly to acknowledge their many achievements. It is hard to believe that the year has gone so quickly and that the girls have now completed their first high school exams. I hope that this outstanding group will continue to support each other and be just as lovely when they graduate in three years.
As the year draws to a close, I thank the dedicated Year 9 homeroom teachers who have been unfailing in their support of the girls in their care. I appreciate everything they have done to nurture the members of their group.

Finally I wish all Year 9 families all the joys and blessings of the festive season. Those of you who attended the Information Evening in February will remember that I spoke of what you could expect this year. I do hope that the good times have greatly outnumbered the difficult ones and that you are just as proud of your daughters as I am.

Well done girls on a fantastic year!

**Year 11/12 Learning Community**

**Year 11 - Mrs Marianne Morphett**

The Year 11 girls returned to school last week to meet with their subject teachers and receive feedback regarding examination performance and academic achievement. It has been a demanding and eventful year for the girls and they are keen to commence the summer break. I would like to thank the Year 11 Pastoral Care team for their work throughout the year to care for the girls academic and pastoral needs. We wish the girls and their families a Merry Christmas and relaxing holiday.

Information regarding the College Ball has been distributed and the girls need to be mindful of the submission dates which occur during the holidays. A letter regarding the commencement of next year and details of the booklist will be forwarded to parents with the reports.

Congratulations to Sofia Varricchio (11.2) who has been selected from a strong field of applicants to attend the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra in March next year.

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**Curriculum News**

**Mrs Loretta Wholley, Deputy Principal, Academic Services**

In the next few weeks you will see the fruits of your daughter’s labour in their End of Year Report. Please go through this report carefully. Celebrate her achievements and successes, and question and challenge her in those places where weakness has been highlighted. Remember to use this time to reflect on 2012: it may be a perfect opportunity to put into place some changes for 2013. Some examples may be about setting time aside for your daughter each day to read her English novel, helping her create an organised study and homework place, removing distractions like the computer/laptop/phone or other electronic device during this time and setting up the boundaries and agreements for doing so. Secondary schooling is a 3 way partnership between school-student-parent. Let’s work together to ensure your daughter is set up to strive for the excellent work and potential she is capable of.

Year 7 and 9 families will receive the results from WAMSE and the Bishop’s Literacy Testing. Our College is proud of their achievements, with the girls placing themselves above the State average. Girls have also received a letter stating their electives and course selection for next year along with information about the Booklist.

My sincere thanks to parents who assisted with the supervision of the Year 11 examinations. This enabled staff to do marking and prepare courses for 2012. Your support is always appreciated.

I take this opportunity to remind parents not to take their daughters away from school earlier than the scheduled holiday times. We do not make any allowances for tests and exams, so anyone missing these will be given NO credit for the assessment (please see our Assessment Policy for more details). See below, the dates for 2013:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>BEGINS</th>
<th>ENDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Thursday, 31 January</td>
<td>Friday, 19 April</td>
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<td>Monday, 4 February</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7 May</td>
<td>Triangular Meetings</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 8 May</td>
<td>All students commence</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 22 July</td>
<td>All students commence</td>
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<td>Friday, 27 September</td>
<td>Term 3 concludes</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15 October</td>
<td>Year 7-11 students commence</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 16 October</td>
<td>Year 12 students commence</td>
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<td>Friday, 22 October</td>
<td>Term 4, Year 12 students conclude</td>
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<td>Friday, 29 November</td>
<td>Term 4, Year 11 students conclude</td>
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<td>Friday, 6 December</td>
<td>Term 4, Year 7-10 students conclude</td>
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Finally enjoy your summer break. Relax as a family and celebrate the Christmas season with a sense of love and joy. Mrs Liana Strutt will be replacing me in 2013 and I am sure she joins me in wishing your daughter all the best for her pursuit of excellence next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mercedes College community for their support and good wishes for the future.
Languages - Mrs Angela Velletri, Head of Learning Area

Alliance Française Examination 2012 - Ms Marie-Noëlle Vieira, Teacher of French

In August, 1183 students of French throughout the state sat for the annual Alliance Française Examination. On 9 November a prize giving ceremony was held to recognize the top 10 students in their category and reward them for their achievement. This year Mercedes College did extremely well in claiming 2 prizes: Madeline Avis in Year 12 claimed First Prize winning a fabulous trip to France and Alice Champalle in Year 10 claimed Second Prize and also won some very special prizes.

We warmly congratulate both girls on their excellent results and dedication and wish them both continued success in their French studies. Félicitations les filles!

Award Winners

Year 12

High Distinction
Madeline Avis (1st Prize Winner), Emma Rainford

Diana Pradzynska

Sophia Moore, Elizabeth Smith, Siobhan Brewster, Mariana Kuklinski, Isabelle Kelly

Christina Douglas

Year 11

Credit
Rebel Boylan, Laura Flanagan, Chloe Lagrenada, Caitlin Richards

Merit
Louise Birchall, Rebecca Hyde, Siobhan Poupard, Indra Seigerschmidt

Year 10

High Distinction
Alice Champalle (2nd Prize Winner)

Thathianna Petit

Sarah Hargreaves, Alice Lynch, Ashleigh Newbury, Julia Newsome

Olivia Allan, Miranda Mitchell

Western Australian Association of Teachers of Italian Exam 2012 - Mrs Angela Velletri

This year was the first time this Competition was offered at Mercedes College and it has replaced the Dante Alighieri Examination. The results were outstanding with seven Mercedes students being ranked in the top 10 in their division.

Congratulations to our prize winners: Sophia Sabatino (1st Place, winning $200) and Sarah Chalmers (2nd Place, winning $100)

Year 12

High Distinction
Christina Barrett (5th Place), Emma Florido (8th Place) Both ranked in top 10 in year group

Stephanie Ricci

Giorgia Marino, Andrea McLure, Olivia Sangalli, Julia Platts

Giorgia Fraser, Jordana Hehir, Verity Bignell, Nadia Loicano, Simona Bertone

Year 11

High Distinction
Stefania Calabro (5th Place) Ranked in the top 10 in her year group

Isabella Piff, Carli Ciancotti, Ella Bracone

Sophia Scasserra, Rebecca Harris, Tahlia Gileno

Zoe Dixon, Kimberley Hoang, Rebekah Maycock-Sayce, Shannon O’Donnell, Isabella Signorile, Zoe Judge, Jelanne Pacilbar

Year 10

High Distinction
Prize winners: Sophia Sabatino (1st Prize Winner), Sarah Chalmers (2nd Prize Winner), Nicole Strever, Rhiannon Cary ( Ranked in the top 10 of their year group as well)

Madison Pigliardo, Louise Carrivick, Carlyn Blair

Maria Pintaudi, Sara Clunies-Ross Liao, Sara Girmay, Laura Hunt, Maddison Rutley, Darcy Palladino, Vanessa Gaglia, Ashleigh John

Daisy Humphries, Jessica Bell, Darcy Halloran, Jade George-Singeorzan, Donna Miranda, Ayesha Cutter, Monique Bertolini, Ellouise Seedy-Dittrich, Isabella Bettini, Gemma Ayres, Nina Andric
Assessment of Language Competence Results

French
Year 9
Distinction
Jessica Rainford, Erika Veal-Ramirez
Credit
Elysia Greene, Isobelle Joyce, Rebecca Moore, Charlotte Saxon

Italian
Year 9
High Distinction
Lauren Brambilla, Imogen Brierley-Hay, Allanaah Ipsaro-Passione, Stephanie Kerrigan, Isabelle Lewis, Rachel McKenna, Ellie Narducci, Alessia Pintabona (who scored 100% – eccellente!)

Year 9
Distinction
Aimee Carbery, Michelle Curro, Zoe Davidson, Alessia Giaros, Danica Gullotto, Georgia Sivwright, Holly Tonich
Credit
Ella Armstrong, Natasha Bengura, Amy Calegari, Sylvia Campagna, Rachael Clifford, Carrie English, Luissa Fabriziani, Amy Gartrell, Nisha Hussain, Nicola Hynes, Lily Joyce, Molly Lightfoot, Stephanie Parasov, Caylee Wallis, Ruby Wheeler

Well done to all the students who have worked hard to improve their mathematical understanding, and thanks to the parents who provided the encouragement and support that their daughter required. The program will continue (with some adjustments) in 2013 across both Year 7 and 8.

Mathematics - Mr Peter Mee, Head of Learning Area

Numeracy Basics Testing – Year 7 Mathematics
At the beginning of this year the mathematics department introduced the numeracy basics testing scheme, aimed at raising the numeracy level of our students. The test assesses the understanding of concepts which are fundamental for success in Year 7 mathematics. The benchmarks for success are set at a high level – students must achieve 90% or above to be rated as ‘Competent’ (80% and above is rated as ‘Satisfactory’ – below 80% is rated as ‘Unsatisfactory’).

There have been eight of these tests throughout the year and the students have shown remarkable improvements (see graph below). The amount of students achieving an ‘Unsatisfactory’ result has decreased dramatically and there are now more than half of the Year 7 cohort achieving a ‘Competent’ result.

Well done to all the students who have worked hard to improve their mathematical understanding, and thanks to the parents who provided the encouragement and support that their daughter required. The program will continue (with some adjustments) in 2013 across both Year 7 and 8.

General College News

Enrolments - Mrs Mandy Ludovico, Enrolment Officer
Early in 2013, Mercedes College will commence interviewing Year 5 students due to start Year 7 in 2015. If you are considering enrolling your daughter at Mercedes and have not yet requested a Prospectus, please contact Mrs Mandy Ludovico on 9323 1340 as soon as possible. For more information please visit the College website.

Secondary Assistance Scheme
The 2013 Secondary Assistance Scheme forms will be available to fill in at the College from Tuesday 29 January. Please note the following:

- Students enrolled in Year 7 are not eligible
- Cards must be current at time of application
- The closing date for applications is Friday 19 April 2013
Chess Challenge - Mr Andrew Grigg and Mrs Margaret Ryan, Chess Club Coordinators
After some fast and impressive games of chess over the past two weeks, the Grand Final for the Mercedes Chess Challenge was played on Thursday, 29 November. With lots of support from the spectators, Anna Duong 9.1 and Kimberly Martin 7.1 played a fast game with some strategic moves. The Challenge champion is Kim who played a fast and skilful game and to Anna who was narrowly defeated.

Frog Jog Fundraising
A letter sent to the Principal, Mrs Sheena Barber recently acknowledged the Frog Jog fundraising efforts of the College community in support of the Sister of Mercy in Romania.

Dear girls
What wonderful girls you are to raise so much money for Romanian destitute people. We have just visited the bank and see you have sent us $4000. As the team here would say “Whooppe”.

Thank you very much from all of us involved in the Romanian project, we can now feel free and happy to get the necessary help for many destitute families and sick children in the hospital here (our base). Do, one day, come and visit us! God Bless and reward you all with love,

Sister Aloysius.

Sport
Year 7 Basketball – Miss Nilar Nyunt, Coach
On Wednesday 21 November, 18 Year 7 girls participated in the Perth Association Cup Basketball competition held at Basketball WA in Floreat. Mercedes took two teams to the competition. Mercedes 1 were narrowly defeated in their first game, against St Norbert's College PS. The team gathered together and won their next two games to finish runner up in their pool. Mercedes 2 made a slow start to their first game, but came out on top. The girls played really well as a team and were undefeated in the round robin games to finish first in their pool. Mercedes 2 went on to play St Norbert's College PS in the final, but was out performed by the basketball school and placed runner up for the day. Mercedes was invited back to play in the Champion Schools on Thursday December 6. Good luck to the girls. Thank you to Miss Sarah Brown for coaching Mercedes 1 and to Year 8 students Sarah Cocks and Anna Mincham for being the team scorers for the day.

Mercedes Netball Club 2013 Season
Please see the College website, under the Notice section for 2013 Registration forms. Forms will also be emailed to current members. Registration will take place in Term 1, Week 1 at 3.20pm in the PAC on the following days:
- Years 8 & 9 - Wednesday 6 February, Year 7 - Thursday 7 February and Year 10/11/12 - Friday 8 February.

Wishing you all a safe holiday.

A Special Thank You
Mercedes College would like to thank Maureen Colgan, Kath Heagney and the Class of '60 and '62 for the generous donation to the Inclusive Education Support team. The team gratefully accepted the donation which will be used to purchase resources for learning support.
Thank You to Parents

Year 7 Parents & Grandparents Mass and Morning Tea
Simone Pennefather and Agatha Manel

Families enjoying the recent Year 7 Parents and Grandparents Mass

Advent Basket Distribution
Thank you to the parents who helped deliver Advent baskets to families in need on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy - Natasha Psaila, Michelle Powell, Nicole O’Rourke, Sally Gatt, Marina Hayward, David Burnell, Albana Ripani, Pauline Allingham, Tu-Oanh Nguyen, Catherine Jones and Mark Baxter.

Noticeboard

Academic Task Force - WACE Head Start Program, 15 - 25 January 2013. Enrol now before 18 December, to received the 10% Early Bird discount. For more information contact 9314 9500 / learn@academictaskforce.com.au or visit www.academictaskforce.com.au.

Fostering & Adoption Services - Foster carers are urgently needed. For more information call 1800 182 178 or visit www.dcp.wa.gov.au.

Learning Performance Seminars - Strategies for Success, Year 10 - 12 January School Holiday Program. 21 - 24 January (Mt Lawley ECU & Murdoch University) / 28 - 31 January (Mt Lawley ECU). Cost $450. For more information contact (08) 9246 2733 / www.learnperform.com / annspence@bigpond.com.

Red Cross Blood Service - support the Blood Service before 4 January 2013. Christmas puts a strain on the nation’s blood supply. Please call 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au to reserve an appointment.

St Brigid’s Church Northbridge Conservation Project - to donate or support the St Brigid’s Church restoration, contact Jan 9227 7956/St.brigid.nb@perthcatholic.org.au or Elizabeth Re lizre@bigpond.net.au.