



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

SISTERS OF MERCY BRISBANE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

It is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes to everyone attending these special anniversary celebrations.

The founding of the Sisters of Mercy was an act of faith by women of faith.

Led by the extraordinary Catherine McAuley, they founded a movement of hope that spread its message of compassion and dignity across the earth, including to a small colony on the edge of a vast continent half a world away.

Today that story endures – in Brisbane and around Australia – as the 1,500 Australian Sisters of Mercy help our nation to achieve its potential as a fair and inclusive society, realising Catherine’s vision in our own time and place.

It is a story of *Living Mercy*, as necessary and relevant today as it was on the shores of the infant Brisbane colony fifteen decades ago.

I therefore pay tribute to the Sisters of today and to your predecessors who have gone on to their reward.

You are remarkable women of character and courage – each in your own way sharing the quality of ‘heroic virtue’ ascribed to your Founder but really belonging to you all.

Your strength and integrity are an abiding inspiration to me, to the Catholic community and to all who benefit from your care.

On behalf of the Australian people, I wish you well in this moment of celebration, confident that your good work will continue in the spirit it began 150 years ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

The Honourable Julia Gillard
Prime Minister of Australia