

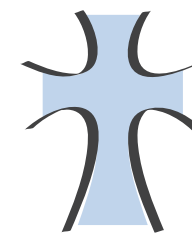
Sisters of Mercy in Australia and Papua New Guinea

In 1846, just five years after Catherine's death, the Sisters of Mercy first came to Australia making a foundation in Perth, Western Australia. This community was founded by Ursula Frayne, a Sister who had known Catherine well and was with her when she died.

By the early 20th century Sisters of Mercy had established communities across Australia, working in education, health care and family and community services. The first Sisters of Mercy who arrived in Papua New Guinea came to Goroka from Australia in 1956.

In 2011, the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) was formed. ISMAPNG is a Religious Institute of Catholic Women (Sisters) who follow Catherine McAuley in seeking to advance the reign of God by engaging in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. They include educators, theologians, scripture scholars, writers, publishers, researchers, historians, musicians, artists, bioethicists, ecumenists, canon lawyers, lawyers. Some are advocates for justice; some provide outreach to asylum seekers and refugees, some work in interfaith relations, in media and communications technology, in governance and administration ministries, as environmentalists and ecologists. Others offer prayer support and hospitality in a variety of ways.

The mission of Mercy continues through the skill, energy and commitment of ministry partners – women and men of mercy who are their dedicated co-workers, board members and volunteers.



MERCY
Associates

Institute of Sisters of Mercy
of Australia & Papua New Guinea

One Charism, Many Paths

Becoming a Mercy Associate

If you feel drawn to experiencing a richer and more fulfilling connection with mercy, you may want to consider becoming a Mercy Associate. The movement is open to women and men of all ages from post-secondary school onwards.

People interested in becoming a Mercy Associate undertake a preparation programme. This is led by existing Mercy Associates who present the programme and are available for discussion.

Those who would like to become a Mercy Associate, once they complete the preparation programme, attend a commitment ceremony and become a member of a Mercy Associates group. The groups develop their own schedule for when to meet and identify social justice initiatives they will be involved with.

Further information is available from:
mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au
02 9572 5400
www.institute.mercy.org.au



MERCY ASSOCIATES

are lay women and men whose lives are inspired by the Mercy charism as expressed by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy



One Charism, Many Paths

Mercy is a quality and gift of God. The personal experience of receiving mercy is life-giving, often sowing the seed of an ongoing commitment to mercy as a core life value.

Merciful living is a gift shared by many, and in the 1980's, the Sisters established the Mercy Associates movement in Australia as a way of encouraging and supporting the many lay women and men who work alongside them.

Mercy Associates are people who cherish the virtue and practice of mercy in their lives and seek a faith community to nurture their commitment to mercy.

They meet for prayer, formation, reflection and to engage in service initiatives based on mercy and justice within and beyond their local community.

Mercy Associates groups are found in a variety of places including parishes, workplaces and larger networks.

They 'associate' with each other and with the Sisters of Mercy, complementing and extending the outreach of the Sisters in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Vision Statement

Mercy Associates are called to live and share the compassion of God revealed in the life of Jesus Christ, in Scripture and through the vision and charism of Catherine McAuley.

Guided by mercy values of compassion, justice, hospitality and hope, they:

- celebrate and give thanks for God's merciful love
- nurture their relationship with God to enable them to witness to their faith in prayer and action
- give expression to God's mercy:
 - in response to the needs of these times
 - in the ordinariness of their daily lives
 - and in all their relationships
- journey with each other and the Sisters of Mercy.

Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley was born in Dublin in 1778 and went on to establish the Sisters of Mercy in 1831.

Catherine's faith began in her family during her childhood. Then, as a young woman she lived with the Callaghan family for twenty years, with her devotion to prayer and service of the poor and vulnerable growing during this time.

The Callaghans left a generous estate to Catherine after their death, and with it she built the House of Mercy in Baggot St, Dublin in the 1820's as a base from which to serve those in need in inner Dublin, especially children and women.

Caught in the social values of her times, the only way Catherine could continue her work was to found a religious order: one based on service of those in need, with the Sisters actively working among the poor on the streets of Dublin. The radical nature of this work met with opposition but Catherine's commitment and vocation never wavered. The Sisters of Mercy, women of gospel faith and social reformers, were founded in Ireland in 1831, and spread over the years to over forty other countries around the world, including Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Throughout her life Catherine's love of God and neighbour manifested itself in prayer and service of others. Her extraordinary life has inspired Sisters of Mercy and lay women and men. Mercy Associates are among those who draw ongoing inspiration from Catherine's life.

