

*The Entrusting of Convent of Mercy
Victoria Square Perth
to
Mercedes College Perth*

Acknowledgement of Country

Good morning and welcome. Before we begin this ritual we acknowledge that we are worshipping this morning on the sacred ground of the Wadjuk/Swan River people of the Noongar Nation and we pay respect to elders past, present and future. We acknowledge that the relationship between Aboriginal people and the Church is a complex one but we as a community strive to follow in Christ's footsteps towards true reconciliation. All of us here do our best to live lives guided by the Holy Spirit who has been present throughout this land in relationships with Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

Welcome

Sr Moira Truleson RSM, Community Leader, South A

Gathering Prayer

In the name of our God of Mercy, we gather here today to celebrate *the entrusting* of this Convent of Mercy to Mercedes College. We remember with gratitude all who have loved and cared for this building over many decades and we pray that, as it continues to serve the education of young women in the way of Catherine McAuley, it will have a future rich in purpose and full of hope.

All: Amen.

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to Timothy 1:13-14

Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

"guard the good treasure entrusted to you..." 2 Timothy 1:14



Response [sung]: We hold a treasure, not made of gold,
in earthen vessels, wealth untold;
one treasure only; the Lord, the Christ,
in earthen vessels.

Address

*Sr Eveline Crotty RSM, Institute Leader Sisters of Mercy
Australia and Papua New Guinea*

Presentation of Gifts

Sr Moira Truleson RSM, Community Leader, South A

Prayers of Gratitude

Gracious God, today we hold in our hearts all who have given life and purpose to this house over its many decades. Especially we remember the sisters who cherished this house as their home, those women and men who cared for it through various domestic services, and those who, more recently, have enabled others to enjoy and appreciate its rich significance within our evolving Mercy story.

Response: Gracious God, we thank you for your fidelity to us.

God of All Times and Seasons, we pray for all students of Mercedes College, past and present. For those who have died, we ask your eternal love. For those who belong to the community of former students we ask that, in their families and workplaces and among their friends and neighbours, they can be agents of your Mercy and Justice. And for today's students we ask that each one will become a woman of integrity, graced with your wisdom and strengthened by your courage.

Response: God of All Times and Seasons, be for us the still point of Truth in our rapidly changing world.

“guard the good treasure entrusted to you...” 2 Timothy 1:14



God of Truth, Goodness and Beauty, we pray with gratitude for all whom you have called to the ministry of education. Here at Mercedes, help us always to reverence every child entrusted to us, to affirm her potential, and to do all we can to enable her to be her best self. May our students recognise in us, their teachers, the essential qualities of educators who serve within the tradition of Catherine McAuley: kindness to all, honesty and trustworthiness, forgiveness, gratitude, diligence, cheerfulness and firm commitment to Jesus Christ, who is always our 'principal path'.

Response: God of Truth, Goodness and Beauty, may you live in all our hearts.

God of Sacred Memory, since our human family first began to know you, we have developed ways of remembering your presence and action in our lives. Among these is the safeguarding of 'our story' which, as the gift of heritage, lets us find in the past meaning for the present and direction for our future. All of this speaks of your saving history. And now you have brought us to this time when we can pass this building, so dear to the 'Mercy story', to the school community of Mercedes who will create new chapters. We thank you for your gifts of trust, hope, freedom and generosity. May we always be worthy.

Response: God of Sacred Memory, help us to understand that, in Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

"guard the good treasure entrusted to you..." 2 Timothy 1:14



Ritual of Entrusting

*Sister Eveline Crotty RSM, Institute Leader Sisters of Mercy Australia
and Papua New Guinea*

*Response [sung]: We hold a treasure, not made of gold,
in earthen vessels, wealth untold;
one treasure only; the Lord, the Christ,
in earthen vessels.*

Sister Sylvia Williams RSM, Chair of Mercy Education

Response [sung as above]

Ms Kerrie Fraser, Principal Mercedes College

Response [sung as above]

Final Blessing

Together Let us Sing

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.

Lord, I am yours forever.

It is you who must teach me to trust in your providence,
Loving Lord.

You are a God of love and tenderness I place my trust in you
and I ask that you grant me acceptance of your will,
Loving Lord.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety.

Let nothing sadden me but sin.

And then let my delight be hoping to see your face,
God my all. My God, I am yours for time and eternity.

Lord, I am yours forever.

It is you who must teach me to trust in your providence,
Loving Lord.

“guard the good treasure entrusted to you...” 2 Timothy 1:14

