

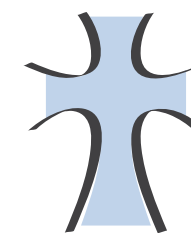
## Sisters of Mercy in Australia and Papua New Guinea

In 1846, just five years after Catherine's death, the Sisters of Mercy made a foundation in Perth, Western Australia.

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 engage in a diverse range of ministries within Australia and Papua New Guinea and beyond.

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 aged 16 years and above. People interested in becoming a Mercy Associate undertake a preparation programme.

Being a Mercy Associate is not a solitary pursuit but involves joining with others who share a commitment to mercy and drawing support from that community. The focus, frequency of meetings, and style of the group is for each group to determine as it develops. There are over a dozen Mercy Associates groups across Australia as well as in PNG and Timor Leste. Contact us to discuss the options you have for becoming a Mercy Associate.

**Further information is available from:**

**[mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mercyassociates@ismapng.org.au) or**

**[http://institute.mercy.org.au/become-involved/  
become-a-mercy-associate/](http://institute.mercy.org.au/become-involved/become-a-mercy-associate/)**

**Call 0408 124 404**



## MERCY ASSOCIATES

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

## One Charism, Many Paths

Mercy Associates are ordinary people who feel a connection with mercy and who express this in their daily lives. Together with the Mercy Sisters, they hold the story of mercy and are called to be the story tellers into the future.

Like us, Jesus lived his life in the ordinary, earning his living as a carpenter, travelling with his friends, and sharing meals, times of celebration, and times of sadness with those he met. Catherine McAuley also responded to the needs she saw around her, setting in motion an expression of God's compassion which is still alive today.

In your Mercy ministry and your day to day life, you too may strive to give life to the charism of mercy in countless ways, big and small. Amidst the busyness of life, how do you find time and space to reflect on your involvement in the mercy story? Would you like to meet occasionally with others from your workplace or location to reflect on your experience of giving and receiving mercy.

Mercy Associates may be for you if:

- o You feel the need for a supportive small community of like minds, sharing together and reflecting on what it means to be part of the mercy tradition.
- o You want to deepen your faith and experience of the mercy tradition and express it in your daily living and loving.

## 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 established the Sisters of Mercy in 1831.

Catherine's faith began in her family during her childhood, and as a young woman her devotion to prayer and service to the poor and vulnerable continued to grow.

Wanting to ensure the continuation of this work, Catherine founded the Sisters of Mercy, women of gospel faith and social reformers. The Sisters are present in 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.



## One Charism, Many Paths

