

July  
2021



# LEADERS AND PARTICIPANT NOTES

## Liturgy Three



INSTITUTE OF SISTERS OF MERCY OF AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Celebrating our Tenth Year*

**GRATITUDE SIMPLICITY INCLUSION**



# Before You Start

Let us continue our prayerful reflections, remembering 10 years within the Institute as we celebrate the theme of 'Inclusion'.

We are united in diversity with all the earth community, with our fellow humans and each other.

This reflection can be used as a guide, with others in a group reflection or, in your own sacred space.

## Creating a Prayer Space

- Build your prayer space using a piece of fabric that might symbolise simplicity for you.
- Find some flowers or vine for your prayer space.
- Find a candle or decorate a candle with colourful ribbon.
- Other symbols can be added over the next few weeks as you reflect where you find inclusion in your life and your life as a member of the Institute.

## Create a Prayer Journal

- Designate a notebook as your Journal. You may wish to write, paint, or draw in your journal over the next few weeks.
- Consider designing a cover for your journal.

*If you do design a cover please send a photo to John Rochester at*

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

## A space to reflect on what you are grateful each day

- Before each meal reflect for a moment on where you have felt or seen and experienced God's presence.
- If you are in a group, share your reflections.

## Organisational notes

- If you are praying in a group organise different people to participate as readers.
- If you are in the one venue invite someone to prepare the prayer focus.
- Photocopy a few copies of these notes or access this on an iPad.

**Important:** You are encouraged to pause the video to enable deeper reflection.



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# Inclusion

## Welkam / Welcome: Inclusion

### Acknowledgement of Country

**Reader:** These ancient lands were here long before history was written, held carefully in its dreaming. We acknowledge the traditional custodian of the rivers, waterholes, seas and land from which we have travelled and on which we gather today. We pay our respects to them and honour their links with all creation.

**All:** We give thanks for elders of all cultures within these lands and commit to walk with the indigenous peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea in a spirit of reconciliation and justice. We pledge ourselves to walk onwards together in solidarity for a better future.

*Let the doors of our hearts be open to welcome and receive all creation with our sisters and brothers.*

### Reader

As we contemplate new understandings of our world, let us pray - God of wisdom, help us to embrace new ways of seeing our world and our connections with all living beings. Open our hearts to others as expressions of your love. Inspire us to encourage, empower and enable others to seek new ways of living the Gospel in a changing world. Help us to live always with love, peace, mercy and justice. Amen.

## Reflection Song

**Open My Eyes Lord**  
by John M Talbot

Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

Open my ears, Lord  
Help me to hear Your voice  
Open my ears, Lord  
Help me to hear

Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love like You  
Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love

Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see



## Reflection

"Harmony with the natural world"- Kciye, is just a word, but it's a word that reminds us of our deeper connections and our deeper obligations to life.

*"Harmony with the natural world, teaches us that it is not enough to know that we are part of one living system. We must also take active steps to live in harmony with the rest of creation. This means that we cannot adopt attitudes or beliefs that place us above the natural world. We cannot see ourselves as having dominion over the land, the water, or the animals. We can't even see ourselves as being stewards of the Earth. We are only keepers of a way of life that is in harmony with the Earth. Every day, we must act in ways that acknowledge that we are part of one living system, a unified whole."* Sherri Mitchell.

We are united in diversity with all the elements of life, with our fellow humans and each other. We are united by the same air, water and earth that provide for us, to share and have life, life to the full. (Adapted - Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship)

## Response

*Let the doors of our hearts be open to welcome and receive all creation with our sisters and brothers.*



## Reader(s)

*The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. Laudato Si' 223*

*We acknowledge with gratitude the sacrament of the present moment through which God speaks to us. 5.05. Catherine and her first companions felt themselves called to a new way of living and practising mercy. With their hearts centred in God, they moved out freely, despite difficulties and dangers even to death, and met God's mercy in courageous services of those who lived in various kinds of poverty 1.04. Constitutions ISMAPNG*

## Response

*"Justice Bringer, Bother us. Keep after us. Open our eyes. Widen our hearts. Change our judgements. Urge us. Chase us. Badger us, until we act on behalf of the 70 million people whose tears fall on foreign soil." Joyce Rupp (MGP prayer).*



## Pause for Reflection

Let us reflect on our relationship with the earth community, with our sisters and brothers, those we are in partnership with and those with whom we share this universe. (Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship)

Who have I welcomed to enter into my door?

How do we interact with each other and creation?

Who have I not always included?

## Quiet Reflection



## Sharing

When you are ready, spend some time sharing your thoughts with those around you, in a group of two or three, or, in your own sacred space. You may also wish to write or draw in your journal.



## Reader(s)

"God's mercy to us is the heart of our service to others. Catherine challenges us to mercy through her teaching and her action. *Mercy, she teaches us, is the principal path marked out by Jesus for those who desire to follow him.*<sup>14</sup> She imitated him in serving the afflicted, through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy", as told in this story of a new Mercy foundation .....  
Constitutions 4.00

'In October, 1836, when Catherine McAuley first arrived, sight unseen, in Charleville, a town in southwest Ireland where she hoped to establish a new Mercy foundation. She became immediately fearful that the Mercy mission could not succeed there, and she thought seriously of taking her sisters back to Dublin. The convent given them was so damp that their clothes were wet each morning, the house was not conveniently located for ministry; and the town itself was so small and poor, there was little chance of new members joining the community.

Then one day as Catherine was walking in Charleville, she met the Christ-sent reason why they had come to Charleville in the first place. She met a poor old woman who greeted her and exclaimed: 'Ah! It is the Lord who drove you in amongst us!'

That settled it! The sisters remained in Charleville and are there to this day. Our Bathurst community was founded from Charleville in 1866.' Story told by Mary Sullivan – McAuley Ministry Conference

**All:** "Whatever and wherever our ministry is, we are part of the one mercy mission, part of the ongoing mission of the compassionate Jesus."  
Constitutions 4.03

## Quiet Reflection

Do we listen to all voices when making decisions, including all the contributors, especially those who will be impacted by the decision?

After some quiet time share a word or phrase that spoke to you (within a group or with a person near you).

## Let us pray

Creator God, we are your people.  
We look to the future with optimism and with faith in you, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people.

We pray that every man, woman and child may develop their potential and meet you in themselves and in one another.  
May we enjoy a totally welcoming community, with you as our centre, joined hand in hand with our sisters and brothers.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.  
(Pastoral Statement US Catholic Bishops)

## Concluding Song

### **Christ Be Our Light**

by Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light we wait in darkness,  
Longing for truth, we turn to you  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in our hearts**

**Shine through the darkness**

**Christ be our light!**

**Shine in your church, gathered today**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone, has pow'r to save us  
Make us your living voice

Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed

Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold  
Make us your building, sheltering others  
Walls made of living stone

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come

## Blessing

**Leader** / All

**Bless us O Eternal Guide:** with openness  
to hear you calling us to stand for truth,  
inclusiveness, peace and justice in our world

**Bless us O Wisdom of God:** with discernment  
and courage to choose what is often difficult,  
unsettling and unfamiliar.

**Bless us O Spirit of Joy:** with delight in your  
presence, in the beauty of creation and in each  
other.

**Bless us O Transforming Fire:** with generosity  
and energy for God's mission to all people.

## Resources

Laudato Si'- Pope Francis

Sherri Mitchell, Sacred Instructions: Indigenous  
Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change (North  
Atlantic Books: 2018), 188, 191-192.

Prayer from Joyce Rupp for the Mercy Global  
Presence theme- Mercy and Displacement of  
Peoples- Sheila Curran

Constitutions – Institute of Sisters of Mercy of  
Australia and Papua New Guinea

Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship, (MELF)  
shared by Theresia Tina.

Based on the Pastoral Statement of US Catholic  
Bishops on People with Disabilities – NCPD  
Council (National Catholic Partnership on  
Disability)

Mercy Partners Resources

## Music

Open My Eyes Lord – John M Talbot

[https://youtu.be/Y\\_Q34inR8A](https://youtu.be/Y_Q34inR8A)

Christ Be Our Light – Bernadette Farrell

<https://youtu.be/qibAAo0JiEQ>

## Thank You

This reflection was compiled by the Liturgy  
Committee:

Kerry Willison RSM, Susan Smith RSM,  
Theresia Tina RSM and Tricia Johnson RSM

as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of  
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Papua New Guinea.



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