

September
2021



LEADERS AND PARTICIPANT NOTES

Mercy
Day
Liturgy



INSTITUTE OF SISTERS OF MERCY OF AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Celebrating our Tenth Year

GRATITUDE SIMPLICITY INCLUSION

Before You Start

There is an invitation on the participants' prayer sheet to create a prayer space and a journal if they wish before they enter into this prayer experience.

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 pieces of fabric that might symbolise for you gratitude, simplicity and inclusion, wrapped in Mercy.
- Find some flowers or vine for your prayer space.
- Find a candle or decorate a candle with a colourful ribbon.
- Symbols can be added over the next few weeks as you reflect where you find mercy in your life and as a member/partner/associate of the Institute.

Create a Prayer Journal

- Designate a notebook as you 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.

A space to reflect on what you are grateful for 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.



INSTITUTE OF SISTERS OF MERCY OF AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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The Institute Journey: The First Ten Years

Wokabaut bilong ISMAPNG: Nambawan 10 pela yia

Mercy Day Liturgy

Let us continue our prayerful reflection as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. Let us be united in diversity with each other as sisters, partners and associates linked to the Mercy world.

Welkam / Welcome: Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Acknowledgement of Country: Australia and Papua New Guinea

Today we recognise and affirm the heritage, wisdom and dignity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Indigenous peoples of Papua New Guinea.

All: We reverently acknowledge those who sang, danced and told their stories, and cared for the land, its fragile waterways, and its flora and fauna long before time.

In a spirit of reconciliation, we commit ourselves to listening and responding to the hopes and aspirations of all Indigenous peoples.

Song of Gathering

With Your Grace

Gina Ogilvie & Monica O'Brien

God of mercy, God of grace,
Come among us fill this place,
Heal our hurting, mend our wounds,
Come among us with your grace.

Pour your love upon us now,
Touch our spirits, make us new.
See our longing, hear our prayer,
Come among us with your grace.

Bless this moment

Take our hearts, use our hands to honour you.

With our voice we will sing,
"Come among us with your grace".

Reader

'Mercying'

We in the Mercy family may now have reached one of the most demanding moments in our history. In living the Gospel call to be a Mercy presence, we now face the hard questions of further personal and social conversion to which we are all called.

To mercy another, to engage in mercying, to



mercy is to act and advocate, to heal and protect, to accompany and clear the way, to do the works of mercy in the world. We are asked to become humble, minor actors in the transforming mission of Jesus the Christ.

Through mercying, we may slowly awaken ourselves and others from the harmful sleep of our inhumanity. We know that universal love of all humanity is a daily and personal movement toward embracing and alleviating the sufferings of all our sisters and brothers – those we live with, those who live next door, those we see on television and in newspapers, those in Afghanistan, the Amazon Forest, Haiti, Cameroon, Yemen, Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and many other places. We know that we are called not only to relieve their misery, but to address its causes.
Integrated Mercy - May 2021

Quiet pause for reflection

Sing: God of Mercy Chant

Gina Ogilvie

Eternal is your love
Faithful is your word
Holy is Your name
God of Mercy

Reader

Mercying is a huge, Gospel-size calling to which we can respond only bit by bit. But as Catherine McAuley often told us: "If we are humble and sincere, God will finish in us the work God has begun. God never refuses God's grace to those who ask it" (Practical Sayings, 3). Catherine had another word of sound advice that may give us courage and confidence in our daily mercying. She said: "The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today-- but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hands at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow. Thus we may hope to get on – taking short careful steps, not great strides" (CCMcA, 365). Let us press forward in our daily efforts to mercy.

Integrated Mercy - May 2021

Mary C Sullivan RSM (adapted from Theological Imaginings)

Quiet pause and reflection

Allow a word or image to come.

Spend a short time and share with another near you, or, quietly pray, write, draw in your journal.



Sing: God of Mercy Chant

Gina Ogilvie

Eternal is your love
Faithful is your word
Holy is Your name
God of Mercy

Scripture

Gospel according to Luke 1:46-55

Reader

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the depths of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." NRSV

Quiet pause

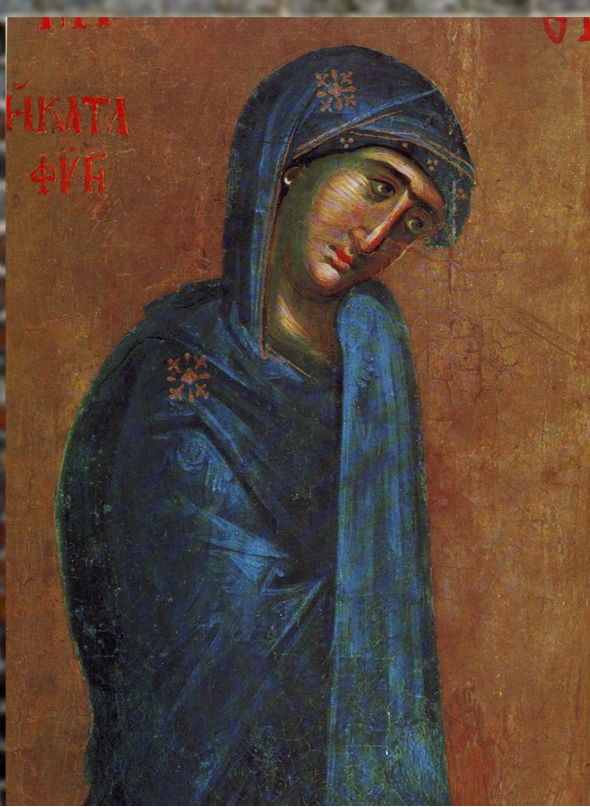
Litany of Mary

- Leader:** God our Creator
All: breathe into us new life
- Leader:** Jesus our Saviour
All: lead us in the way of peace and justice
- Leader:** Enabling Spirit
All: transform us to empower others
- Reader:** Mary wellspring of peace
All: be our guide
- Reader:** Mould of strength and gentleness
All: be our guide
- Reader:** Model of trust and courage
All: be our guide
- Reader:** Model of patience and openness
All: be our guide
- Reader:** Mary, woman of mercy
All: empower us
- Reader:** Woman of faith and contemplation
All: empower us
- Reader:** Woman of wisdom and understanding
All: empower us
- Reader:** Woman of grace and truth
All: empower us
- Reader:** Woman centred in God
All: empower us
- Reader:** Mary, first disciple
All: lead us to life
- Reader:** Seeker of God's will

Litany of Mary



Litany of Mary



All: lead us to life

Reader: Bearer of the Word

All: lead us to life

Reader: Sharer in ministry

All: lead us to life

Reader: Witness to the resurrection

All: lead us to life

All: Mary, Mother of Mercy,
We entrust our lives to you
Keep us faithful in our loving and
serving
so that we too may come to share the
fullness of grace.

Amen

(Adapted Litany of Mary of Nazareth- Marian Year 1987)

Ritual of Recommitment (Sisters)

God of Mercy trusting in Your faithful love,
I renew my vows to live a Gospel life,
following Christ in chastity,
poverty and obedience,
living Mercy in the service of others.

Grant me the grace through
the intercession of Mary,
the Mother of Mercy,
and the prayers, support and
example of my Mercy community,
to live these vows joyfully, faithfully and without
reserve. **Amen**



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Sung Response

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley
Elaine Deasey RSM

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.

Let us pray

Compassionate God,
Through this celebration
You give us new direction and hope.

May the power of your love,
Witnessed in the life of Catherine McAuley
and all women and men of mercy,
continue its work among us and bring us the joy
of your promise
through Jesus, present among us.

Amen

Leader: Go now to celebrate and live Mercy!



Concluding Song

Circle of Mercy
Jeanette Goglia RSM

In Mercy, we touch the hearts of those who are in
misery.

In Mercy, we're touched by them and feel their
strength and courage.

In Mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in
sorrow,

In Mercy, we're healed by them and see the face
of hope

Refrain:

For the circle of Mercy is timeless,
It is Spirit of Life itself,
Which grounds us in faith
And lifts us in hope,
And holds us in God's loving care,
And holds us in God's loving care.

In Mercy, we welcome those the world has left
rejected

In Mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of
God

In Mercy, forgive the incompleteness in another

In Mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole
again

Refrain

In Mercy, the Spirit-Faith will hold us in God's
presence,
In Mercy, the Spirit-Hope will lift us out of doubt,
In Mercy, the love of God will be our joy when
living,
In Mercy, we join with one another on our
journey.

Refrain



Resources

Theological Imaginings: Integrated Mercy - Mary Sullivan, Mercy Global Presence May 2021

Gospel of Luke 1:46 – 55 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Litany of Mary of Nazareth- Marian Year 1987

With Your Grace - Gina Ogilvie & Monica O'Brien

God of Mercy Chant - Gina Ogilvie

<https://youtu.be/biVRJumoaUw>

Circle of Mercy – Jeanette Goglia RSM
Sung by Marcia Howard, arrangement by Damian Howard (Australian-Irish version)

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley – Elaine Deasey RSM
<https://www.mercyworld.org/library/the-suscipe-of-catherine-mcauley>

Alternative recommitment

Ritual of Recommitment-
(Sisters/ Mercy partners/friends)

Rejoicing in God's faithful love, and our call to Mercy, let us renew our commitment to continue the work of the Gospel.

God of Mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ, and with trust in your tender care, I renew my vows(commitment) for relatedness, stewardship and partnership, living mercy in service to the world.

As I continue giving my life, may I be strengthened to be faithful to this commitment through the prayer of Mary, Woman and Mother of Mercy.

*Protect and bless us with the assurance of your presence and providence now and always. **Amen.***

