



Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley 1778 - 1841

DATES TO REMEMBER:

24 September .. Our Lady of Mercy Feast Day

29 September .. Birthday of Catherine

11 November .. Anniversary of Catherine's death

12 December .. Foundation Day - Beginning of Sisters of Mercy Order(1831)

**BOOKLET PREPARED BY CHRISTINE CONVERY, Mercy Associates
Network Facilitator NSW, 2023**



PRAYER BOOKLET



©Image of Catherine McAuley -painting by Jen Norton

Mercy Associates are called to live and share the mercy of God.

We are women and men inspired by the life of Jesus Christ revealed in Scripture, and by the vision and charism of Catherine McAuley.

(Opening lines from the Mercy Associates of ISMAPNG's *Vision Statement*, 2023)

My Mercy Associates group's Favourite Prayers:

'Servant God' Prayer

Like Catherine McAuley who observed that 'the poor need help now, not next week' open our hearts to opportunities to care. Help us to nourish life in small circumstances and global realities.

Move us to assist those who need our help today.
May we be less concerned with grand places than with your people in need right now. Amen.

(Teresa Purcell rsm. *Retreat Instructions of Mother Mary Catherine McAuley*. 55 - adapted)

Scripture passages for Reflection: (continued)

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2: 10

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Psalm 23: 1-2 and 6



The Spirituality of Mercy

Catherine McAuley wrote:

- *Mercy, the principal path marked out by Jesus Christ for those who desire to follow him*
- *There are things the poor prize more highly than gold, though they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle compassionate look, and the patient hearing of sorrows.*
- *... walk in love as Christ loved us, preserving above all things, charity, which is the bond of perfection.*

Catherine calls people of Mercy to that same generosity of spirit:

We can never say 'it is enough'.

Catherine says of Prayer:

'Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, but its growth depends on the care we take to nourish it. If neglected, it will die. If nourished by constant practice, it will blossom and produce fruit in abundance.'



Celtic Catherine
by Virginia Giglio, PhD
(Ireland Mercy
Associate)

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Unless we live in Jesus Christ by holy recollection, united with Him by love, we can never draw souls to His love and service. Familiarity with God, uniting us to Him, is humble, simple and confiding, imparting peace and tranquillity.

Put your whole confidence in God; He will never let you want.

It is better to relieve one hundred imposters, if there be such, than to suffer one really distressed person to be sent away empty.

Holy Spirit, give me a growing insight into the mystery which I am.



*Teach me what it means for today
to live with meekness, piety
and unwearied patience.*

*If we are humble and sincere,
God will finish in us the work He has
begun; He never refuses His grace
to those who ask it.*

Catherine McAuley

If we wish to sow the seeds of real hope in our world, I think Catherine McAuley would say: This is the way we would do it - one person at a time: one answering of the figurative doorbell, one opening of the door, one embrace of the stranger, one welcoming of the other. One sharing of our bread and milk - one person at a time. (Mary Sullivan,

Welcoming the Stranger: The Kenosis of Catherine McAuley)

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All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

AMEN.

(from Laudato Si')



(*Sister Dreaming*
by Colleen Wallace Nungari)

Welcoming God, free my heart to recognize all those you send into my life to teach me about you. May every person and experience be a source of wonder. May I never miss the opportunity to embrace and engage with the amazing variety of your creation. Open me to all that it means to be human and give me a sense of gratitude for all who walk this path with me.

I ask this in the name of Jesus who chose to be human as a way of revealing you. **AMEN.**

(by Sheila Carney rsm)

AS WE COUNT OUR BLESSINGS show us what we must do to be bearers of your love. Make us channels, as Catherine was, of gifts worth more than gold yet costing nothing to give: a listening ear for those in sorrow, a gentle and tender gaze, and a kindly spoken word. **AMEN.**

(Srs. of Mercy, N.Z. 2018. 10 - adapted)

POUR OUT COMPASSION AND MERCY

1. Pour out Compassion and Mercy
From the depths of your heart,
And give to the poor and the broken
The service of your love.

Chorus:

In so far as you do these holy deeds
With all the love of your soul,
Then you will resemble Me, your God
And I will make you whole.

2. If you seek out and find the stranger,
And comfort the lonely of heart,
And offer them your friendship,
Then my justice you impart.

Chorus

3. So pour out Compassion and Mercy
From the depths of your heart,
And give to the poor and the broken
The service of your love.

Chorus

(By Briege O'Hare osc and Marie Cox rsm, from the album *Woman's Song of God*)
Recording available from the webpage: soundcloud.com/mercyworld/pour-out-compassion-and-mercy-1



(*Mother and Child*
by Nazar Haidri)

THE CIRCLE OF MERCY

1. In Mercy we touch the heart 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 roots us in faith

And lifts us in hope,

And holds us in God's loving care (repeat this last line)



Mercy Mandala
of Great Britain,
by the Srs. of
Mercy of Great
Britain.

2. In Mercy, we welcome those the world has left rejected
In Mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of God.
In Mercy, we forgive the incompleteness of another.
In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey.

Refrain.

3. In Mercy, the Spirit-Faith will root 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 in living.
In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey.

Refrain.

(By Jeannette Goglia rsm from *The Circle of Mercy* CD)

Recording available from webpage: mercyworld.org/library/the-circle-of-mercy-cd214

MERCY PRAYER

O God, You are our God,
full of tenderness and compassion,
rich in Mercy.

Be with our Sisters and Associates, Lord,
as we strive to find new ways
of dispensing Your Mercy.

Renew in us the Spirit of Catherine McAuley.
Open our minds and hearts that we may respond
to the challenge of being and giving Mercy
to those we are called to serve.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, Our Lord,
and through Mary the Mother of Mercy.

AMEN.



PRAYER OF CATHERINE McAULEY
THE SUSCIPE

My God, I am Yours
For time and eternity.
Teach me to cast myself entirely
Into the arms of
Your loving Providence
With the most lively, unlimited confidence
In Your compassionate, tender pity.
Grant me, O most merciful Redeemer,
That whatever You ordain
Or permit,
May be acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety:
Suffer nothing to sadden me but sin,
Nothing to delight me but the hope
Of coming to the possession of You,
My God and my all,
In Your everlasting Kingdom.
AMEN.



Young Catherine, by Gael O'Leary

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION
OF
CATHERINE McAULEY

Heavenly Father, you have given us
In your servant Cathering McAuley,
An example of steadfast faith,
Love for You and service of the poor
Through the spiritual and corporal works
of Mercy.

Show by external signs
The power she enjoys in Your sight
So that through Your loving kindness
She may be declared blessed
By the Church.

We ask this
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord
AMEN.

CALLED TO BE MERCY

Refrain:

Called to be Mercy to bring hope amidst the pain,
Owning our own weakness we gather in God's name.
To know God's tender Mercy and to carry it with care,
God's loving kindness leads us to be Mercy everywhere.

1. From a humble start in Dublin to many foreign shores,
The Spirit of God's Mercy lives in service of the poor.
Catherine's dream inspires us to reach out in God's name;
To live with deep compassion as God's Mercy we proclaim.

Refrain

2. The poor, the sick, the lowly claimed Catherine's special care;
The challenge still is here today, if only we can dare
To trust God's loving Providence, to follow where God leads
To enter into Mercy by serving those in need.

Refrain

(By Moira Crutain from
Seasons of Mercy)
Recording available from the NSW Mercy Associates
Network Facilitator.
Email:-
mercyassociatesnsw@ismapng.org.au



A MERCY ASSOCIATES PRAYER

Create pathways
dear Lord Jesus, for us to co-create
Peace,
Justice,
Compassion,
Love, and
Mercy
in the world,
moving forward together,
as mercy associates and
followers of Your Way.

AMEN.

(Christine Convery 2022)

love *do* JUSTICE
MERCY AND
walk HUMBLLY
WITH YOUR GOD.
MICAH 6:8