



Many Paths

Newsletter of Mercy Associates of ISMAPNG

Issue 38, November 2025

Dear Associates, Friends and Sisters,

This is the final edition of **Many Paths** for 2025. It is also the final edition to go out before the IS-MAPNG Pilgrimage of Hope concludes on 12th December, and the **Jubilee Year** of Hope concludes with the closing of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on January 6th, 2026 (feast of the Epiphany). From the perspective of opportunities to reflect on hope in our lives and as a core element of our faith, it's been an eventful and fruitful year.

As groups begin to hold their final meetings for the year and perhaps enjoy some early Christmas fellowship over a cuppa, lunch or dinner, it's the right time to pause and reflect on what insights you have gained about hope this year. **Has your appreciation of how central hope is to our faith deepened? What do you know about Christian hope now that you didn't know a year ago?**

In addition to the articles sent by groups around Australia and Papua New Guinea, our three Network Facilitators—Marg, Anna and Phil— have each submitted an reflection article on some element of their year, their role, their perspective on important things. Each is well worth reading.

By the time the first newsletter in 2026 is sent, Advent and Christmas will be well behind us, and we will be journeying through the season of Lent.

With this in mind, **Marg, Anna, Phil and I wish you and those dear to you a joyful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year. May this sacred season be filled with rich blessings for you!**

Carmel Ross, **Executive Officer**



**WE HAVE JOURNEYED THROUGH THE
JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE AS PILGRIMS...**



**AS PEOPLE OF FAITH AND MERCY,
WE HAVE JOURNEYED TOGETHER.**



Mercy ... Marimari
Our Pilgrimage of Hope
wokabut bilong yumi long Hope

May God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this holy season.

*Letter to Frances Warde
December 23, 1837*



Mandy's Associate journey...



I first met the Sisters of Mercy when, having recently suffered a life changing stroke, I started attending the local church at Brighton, SA. That was in 2014. There were four Sisters here at that time who have all impacted my life greatly and through them I have since met other wonderful Sisters from across Australia. After completing a Ministry Formation Program run by the Adelaide Archdiocese I knew I wanted to become involved more with these sisters who I had grown to know and respect. I enquired about *Becoming a Mercy Associate* but discovered there were no other Associate groups in Adelaide. So I agreed to be part of a formation program online with a lovely lady from St Petersburg and in 2020, together with two of our mentors and the Mercy Associates Facilitator in Victoria, we formed the Mercy Zoomers. We have continued to meet once a month and have been joined by a Mercy Friend from Papua New Guinea.

The Mercy Zoomers group has provided me with a place to grow in faith, love and respect for Catherine McAuley and all the Sisters of Mercy. The

Sisters, Associates and Friends whom I have had the pleasure to meet along the way have had a deep spiritual impact on my life and the spiritual journey I continue to travel on.

Then in November 2022 I established the Adelaide Mercy Associates group with two other Associates who had recently renewed/made their commitment. We have continued to meet regularly and have been fortunate to have the support of three Sisters of Mercy who have been joining us for the monthly meetings. We also have been invited to attend and be a part of many aspects of mercy life in Adelaide, such as attending Mass with the Sisters of Mercy at Plympton and being invited to Mercy Day events by the McAuley Community School at Brighton. These are just two of the relationships I hope will continue to flourish as our Associate group grows.

But one of my real hopes is for the Mercy Associates to become more involved with all of the other groups which exist under the auspices of ISMAPNG. For example, it would be wonderful to get to know the Young Mercy Links Group from Adelaide, to know what they are involved with, to discuss ways in which we might help, i.e., fundraising etc. And, again, we can learn so much by being with the Sisters of Mercy. I am so blessed to be able to call a lot of the Sisters my friends and I know they inspire me to be a better person. I think the Sisters have lots of life skills, knowledge and experience we could learn from. And maybe we will discover ways in which we too could contribute or be of service.

Next year we hope to invite some interesting guest speakers to come along to our meetings. Hopefully too, we will attract some like-minded people who may consider setting out on the path to become an Associate and who have a desire to share in the charism of mercy that Catherine McAuley showed and lived every day.

Mandy Bosson, Adelaide and Mercy Zoomers groups

When's your birthday?

A reminder that **Les Stewart**, from the Ballarat Mercy Associates, prepares a prayer resource each month on which he lists the Mercy Associates who will celebrate their birthday during that month. This is a fabulous initiative by Les, and you are invited to email him at lescres1234@outlook.com.

Les only includes the date of your birthday—not the year!!! We are then able to include Mercy Associates celebrating their birthdays in our personal prayer intentions each month.



**'If we are humble
and sincere, God will
finish in us the work
he has begun.'**
Catherine McAuley

Familiar Instructions page 148

#MercyMoment
www.mercyworld.org



Mt Hagen Mercy Friends

These two pictures are from Mercy Friends in Mt Hagen giving lunch to the orphanage students who come to school without lunch, both primary and secondary schools. Sr Mariska RSM is with the students.

Sr Philomena Waira RSM



Gunnedah

Gunnedah Associates usually have nine attendees at meetings, including Sr Regina. Sometimes one or two miss because of sickness or pressing commitments and this year one of our usual number has been unable to attend any because of poor health. We decided mid-year to aim for monthly meetings so that we could follow the Pilgrimage of Hope project until it ended in December. This has been a bit of a challenge as most don't have access to computers but the photocopier has provided access to core material.

We try to support each other by prayer and friendship. We have prayed for the sick, including Chris Convery. Those who are able join other parishioners in helping with morning tea after the Sunday Mass, looking after the Sanctuary and flower arranging, making meals for the sick and bereaved and similar activities. It was decided at our last meeting that we resume fund raising through handiwork such as coat hangers, baby rugs and kitchen towels. We are inspired by Catherine to do whatever we can to show God's mercy to the world.

Sr Regina RSM



Anne Brady, Colleen Buttenshaw, Eva Grace, Val McCann,
Sr Regina, Deirdre Andren, Margaret Nott, Adba Kidd.
Absent from photo Marie Hobson

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Seasons

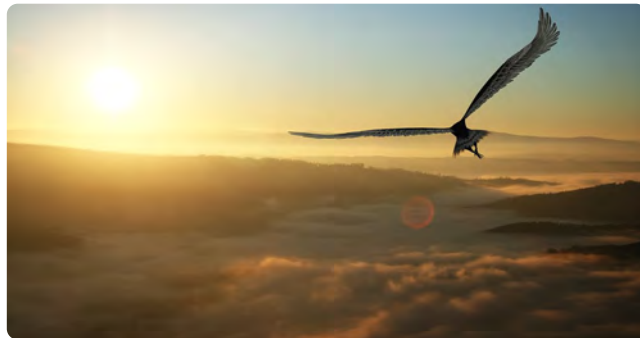
This year has been challenging. As a pastor in a small church on the outskirts of Melbourne, I have witnessed every family in our church navigate serious life issues, including physical and mental illnesses, the death of loved ones, life-changing health diagnoses, relational challenges, and work and financial stresses. I am sure that some of you reading this are nodding your heads in agreement, saying that 2025 has been a challenging year for you as well.



And yet, as I write this, I look out my window across our dam paddock. I see that the grass is green and growing; our horses are enjoying the abundance of feed that comes with spring. New wild duck families waddle across my view, and our local magpie family introduces their latest offspring to the delights that can be found in our gardens. I am reminded that life is full of seasons. As the writer of Ecclesiastes states, *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens'* (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV).

So, what keeps us on this journey - this pilgrimage - when we are walking through a difficult season? In a recent sermon, I challenged the congregation to consider the role of creeds in the early church. Creeds were written to help stem the tide of heresy, as well as to remind early believers of the unshakeable, undeniable tenets of their faith. They can do the same for us today. Moreover, we can write our own 'creeds' – those truths about God that hold us firm when the winds of life howl around us. For me, two passages come to mind: Psalm 23 and Isaiah 40:28-31. These are committed to memory, and I find myself reciting them often, reminding my heart and my spirit to make room for a God who never leaves me and who has a habit of showing up in my life in unexpected ways.

And here is the challenge



They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

for us, especially as we enter the Advent season. Are we prepared to make room for Jesus? Are we watchful, looking for Jesus and His arrival? Let us not be like the early crowds, who, consumed by their own lives, missed the significance of the events in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. As pilgrims, we continue to walk and look because we know that we never walk alone.

Anna McGookin, Network Facilitator Victoria & South Australia

Carrying a candle

from one little place of
shelter to another
is an act of love.

To move through the huge
and hungry darkness,
step by step,
against the invisible wind
that blows forever around
the world,
carrying a candle,
is an act of foolhardy
hope.

Surely it will be blown out:
The wind is contemptuous,
The darkness cannot comprehend it.

How much light can this
tiny flame shed

On all the great issues of
the day?

It is as helpless as a new-born child.

Look how the human
hand,

That cradles it, has become translucent:

Fragile and beautiful,

Foolish and loving,

Step by step.

The wind is stronger than
this hand,

And the darkness infinite
Around this tiny here-and-now
flame that wavers,

But keeps burning: carried
with such care

Through an uncaring
world

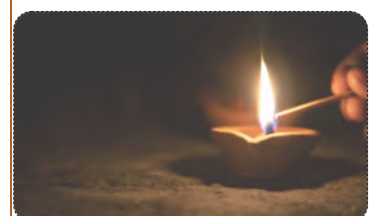
From one little place of
shelter to another.

An act of love.

**The light shines in the
darkness**

**And the darkness can
never put it out.**

Jan Sutcliff Pickard



Fruitful online Pilgrimage meetings hosted by Providence Group

November saw the last of our Providence Group's on-line *Pilgrimage of Hope* gatherings and we now look forward to the final shared pilgrimage meeting in December.

When I agreed to lead these gatherings, I was very uncertain about how, or even if, such a thing would work on-line. Looking back over the last 6 months, I can see both limitations and benefits in gathering in this way for this purpose.

There were clear limitations in being on-line rather than in person, especially for building a sense of presence and community. No person-to-person contact, no "good cup of tea" at the close of the meeting, just the press of a button.

However, a major benefit was ease of access. The group consisted of Associates, Mercy Friends and personal friends from as far afield as Papua New Guinea, Gladstone, Yass, and places in between. We all met pilgrims we could never have met otherwise, surely a genuine aspect of "real life" pilgrimage. A second benefit was the way in which the gatherings encouraged me continue on the pilgrim way as I prepared for each



**God of gentleness and compassion,
Help us to seek serenity in the busyness of life.**

May we value relationships in an era of online connection.

May we embrace the power of technology with balances in place.

May we treasure the moments of human connection, online and in person, which sustain our communities.

Amen.

gathering each month. They prompted me to read the material, pray about it and consider what I might share at the next gathering. It did

take some time for us to develop a sense of community, however, the willingness of people to share their journeys increased with each gathering and was for me, the biggest blessing of the whole experience.

There were clearly other benefits in terms of logistics: people felt able to drop in or not, as there was no expense involved, no catering etc, no inconvenience if numbers fluctuated.

One thing I did learn which may be useful for future groups, is the importance of a very simple regular format for each meeting. In our case we started on time, had a very short informal welcome, acknowledgement of country, prayer and period of silent contemplation on a passage of Scripture, followed by a time of less formal sharing with a general question to prompt responses.

We finished on time with a blessing and details of the next meeting. I think it was the known nature of the format of the meeting which gave people courage to share their spiritual experiences as well as absolute clarity about the acceptability of silent sharing.

Overall, I feel very privileged to have been part of this group and of the pilgrimage itself and I look forward to December's meeting. If, in the future, your group is considering an "on-line" format, I would recommend trying it. Our God of Surprises works in many ways, and my experience is that this is one of them.

Margery Jackman, NSW Providence Group



Ballarat Mercy Associate Les Stewart recently visited New Norcia in Western Australia, home of a community of Benedictine monks. The founding monk, Rosendo Salvado OSB and his group arrived at the Swan River colony on the ship Elizabeth, along with Sr Ursula Frayne RSM and the group of Sisters who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Australia. Les and local friend Anne, joined Carmel to attend prayers with the monks before visiting Holy Trinity Abbey Church followed by a short stop at the Museum.

Carmel Ross

Thanks Heaps!

Catherine McAuley wrote in a letter to Frances Warde in November 1838. 'Every place has its own particular ideas and feelings ...'



As a network facilitator I have the privilege and joy of experiencing the life that belonging to a Mercy Associate faith community brings – to Associates, Friends, Honorary Associates, Religious, friends and visitors. Each group I connect with has its own ways of meeting and doing things but the same spirit is evidenced. In these groups I witness connection, prayer, hospitality and welcome, as well as care for each other and inspiration to the wider communities they are part of. I see people attracted to mercy, who have discovered a way of growing in mercy and hope, giving expression to the mission of mercy that began with Catherine McAuley in all sorts of old and new ways.

**It is sacred work that we are part of,
and it is so needed still.**

In our modern world where disconnection and disillusionment can rob so many of hope our on-going formation in the ways of mercy privileges us with a deep awareness of the strong and constant presence of God's goodness. This gentle but powerful energy for good keeps searching for us, asking us to notice it and inviting us to make it real in the world through our thoughts and actions every day.

As the year comes to an end I find myself feeling just so grateful for the efforts of the individuals and teams who share the work of faithfully leading and organising our groups. Their passion, commitment and perseverance keep calling us together and connecting us in communal sacred space that nurtures us and helps us find the encouragement and inspiration we need to spread and participate in mercy in small and big ways.

I want also to mention the places where we meet - Seville Mercy Centre in Cairns, The House of Prayer and Spirituality Townsville, Stoneleigh at McAuley and the Cathedral Centre in Rockhampton and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Gladstone. The support from these communities and their leaders provides the beautiful spaces for our gatherings and retreats and is very much appreciated.

I am reminded that across all our faith communities 'The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us – and oh what a blessing – it should make all things else pass into nothing... This is the Spirit of the order indeed – the true Spirit of Mercy – flowing on us.' *Letter to Elizabeth Moore, 1841.*

I feel blessed in so many ways in my belonging to mercy.

Marg Trevethan, Queensland Network Facilitator



The House of Prayer and Spirituality
A Mission of the Catholic Diocese of Townsville.



WONDERFUL RETREAT DAY FOLLOWS TURBULENT YEAR FOR TUART HILL ASSOCIATES

On 5th October, 2025, our **Mercy Associates Retreat Day** was truly a grace-filled encounter with our loving and merciful Lord.

From the beginning, it was clear that Jan, our leader, had prayerfully and thoughtfully prepared the day so that we could learn, be inspired, and be deeply touched by God's presence.

We began with the reflection 'Learning to Trust - Author Unknown'. The simple yet profound image of life as a bike ride with God moved my heart deeply, especially the moment when the author let go of all the extra earthly gifts and baggage.

It reminded me that sometimes, to truly journey with God, I must travel light and trust more.

Our second reflection, 'Forgiveness is,', led us into Psalm 139 in silence and prayer, through which we reflected on God's intimate knowledge of us and His unconditional love.

Forgiveness truly felt like a pure gift from God, freeing, healing and life-giving.

We then entered into 'The Divine Dance' by Richard Rohr, taking time once again for quiet reflection and shared insights. The imagery of being drawn into God's loving movement helped me feel embraced by the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, we immersed ourselves in Acts 9:1-22, the powerful story of Saul's conversion. After time in silence, we were invited to reflect on four guiding questions.

As we shared after lunch, our conversation naturally touched on:

- Paul's mission and his dramatic encounter with Christ
- The moment of blindness and transformation
- Saul's question
- Ananias's courage and obedience in response to God's call

Sharing scripture together was my favourite part of the day. Listening to each other's reflection, I felt we were walking together in faith, united in Christ, encouraged by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened in our mission.

It was a truly beautiful day, blessed, joyful, reflective, and even sprinkled with moments of fun and laughter.

My heart is grateful.

Teresa Mitchell, Tuart Hill, Perth

Sharing scripture together was my favourite part of the day.

We have had a year to top all years!

We're just a small group of eight faithful Mercy Associates most of whom have been 'hanging in' for many years.

But I think this year has really put us to the test.

We began the year quite well, but from there on it seemed to be one obstacle after another, raining down on us.

Firstly we hadn't got to the second meeting before the flu came to visit me in large doses and try as I might, it kept me in bed for some time.

Being a small group, we didn't have too many to call in as a stand in. Recruiting in the parishes will be a "must do" for next year for us.

To prevent Mercy Associates from becoming a dim memory, two dear and willing Associates decided they would take the next meeting on and work together as a team. But the day before, one went down with the flu and by the morning the second one had succumbed. Reluctantly, the meeting was cancelled.

This gremlin, without any permissions, had infiltrated our group, and seemed set on wiping us out. But like Catherine's daughters in the early days, we weren't going to be beaten.

At last I was getting better and so were the other two and things were looking ok for the March gathering and I was feeling 'up to it.'

The afternoon before that meeting, I had a fall and managed to break my wrist - so much for 'the morrow'. I am still working with the physio on that and what I had prepared would have to remain idle.

The group met in April with Carmel Ross facilitating a discussion about Hope, providing an opportunity for the group to reflect on what Christian hope is and how they experience it in their own lives.

Unfortunately, the group was not able to meet between April and October.

With my wrist much improved, I was able to lead our annual retreat in October. All present said they enjoyed the day.

Well, we've managed to wade, swim, or dog paddle though 2025 and will be ready with our armour on to have a faith filled and happy 2026!

Jan O'Connor, Tuart Hill

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

PERSONAL REFLECTION: MEMORIES ~ WITNESS ~ GRATITUDE ~ LEGACY

During 2025, a number of friends have died and as I have been reflecting on their lives in my sadness, I am reminded of the key Scripture passage when Jesus asks the disciples – **“Who do you say that I am?”** (Mt 15:15; Mk 8:29; Lk 9:20)

This is a seminal question for each of us and for me, one which is cause for increasing reflection. As I wrote recently in our Parish Bulletin -

This month of November continues to evoke memories of those who have died, especially recently – those we have loved, those with whom we have worked and those who have left us a legacy which enables and inspires our lives today. These memories can bring us a quiet joy, can still be quite raw or can be a legacy of inspiration and guidance in our lives. Let us especially remember those who may have no one to pray for them as we remember our identity in God:

Together, the living form with the dead, one community of memory and hope, a holy people touched with the fire of the Spirit, summoned to go forth as companions bringing the face of divine compassion into everyday life. (Elizabeth A Johnson)

Our call is to respond to the invitation of Jesus to ‘love one another as I have loved you’ (Jn 13:34) so that everyone has the opportunity to ‘live life to the full’ (Jn 10:10). As people of Mercy, inspired by the lives of Catherine and many Sisters, we have many witnesses whom we have met over the journey of our lives and whose legacy inspires us even in our subconscious knowing. I remember many witnesses in the Mercy family, especially Carmel Gardiner RSM (dec’d) and Irena Kasprzyk RSM (dec’d), whose witness through the integrity and deep faith lived daily in their lives and the warmth and fidelity of their relationships continue to bring confidence and reassurance to me.

A reflection for me as I prepare to farewell Mons Frank Mariott next week, a giant of the Sandhurst Diocese and dear friend:

~ How am I a witness 24/7? How do my actions reveal my heart?

Frank was a great witness who influenced the lives of many, and he was at his essence a down-to-earth Parish Priest with a big heart and vision for all God’s people. God’s invitation to us is to be ‘a person fully alive’ (St Irenaeus) – to embrace our humanity with all its gifts and flaws whilst being outward looking in giving ourselves for others. As Catherine reminds us:

‘Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practised while on earth’ (Retreat Instructions p. 148)

In conclusion:

‘We never lose the people we love, even to death.

They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make.

Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love’ (Source unknown).

Phil Billington, NSW Network Facilitator



Ballarat enjoys a rich celebration of Mercy Day



This year's celebration began at Mercy Place, where nineteen Associates joined residents, staff, sisters, local parishioners and family members for Mass celebrated by Frs Justin Driscoll and Shaiju Mathew.

The ceremony was organised by Pastoral Care Officer, Lucy O'Beirne. Lucy is our newest Associate joining our group earlier this year.

After Mass we, along with eight sisters, moved to the Mercy Gathering Room for lunch.

Following lunch Sr Veronica Lawson spoke briefly about Barry Golding's book: 'Six Peaks Speak', in which he explores Europeans *unsettling* the land around the Daylesford area and the enormous im-

pact this had on the Dja Dja Wurrung people. She also mentioned Kate Greenville's recent book, 'Unsettled' which also explores this theme.

Our final session looked briefly at the language of mercy in the scriptures with a particular focus on the early years of Moses' life and the extraordinary courage and mercy shown by the women involved in his story. These women demonstrated great commitment to mercy in their preparedness to stand up to the official oppression. Parallels were drawn between this story and many contemporary situations.

The day concluded with a 'good cup of tea'.



Acknowledgement of Place and People

We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the traditional custodians of the lands in the countries in which we live. They call us to remember their ancestors who, in their ancient wisdom, saw the sacredness and wonder of all creation and respected it.





TRIBUTE TO



Dear Sister, Friend, Mother, Colleague, Teacher and Beloved



On the 20th of November 2025, you parted the Mercy journey, leaving behind **a legacy of faith, compassion, and service.** Your enthusiasm, participation, and unwavering contributions—both spiritually and physically—have deeply enriched the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Your presence among us was a blessing, your dedication an inspiration, and your kindness a reflection of **true mercy in action.** The memories of your time with us will linger in our hearts, reminding us of the light you shared and the love you gave so freely. **May your soul rest in eternal peace, embraced by the mercy and grace of God.** Until the golden morning, we hold you in our prayers and cherish the bond we shared.

From your Mercy Friends and Associates
Papua New Guinea



Rockhampton Pilgrimage of Hope

The pilgrimage of hope for the Mercy Associates group in Rockhampton began in June at the regular monthly gathering. It had been decided at the May gathering that this would be our focus for the remainder of the year. We decided we would look at the resources available and then put together a presentation each month using some of those resources. We encouraged members to visit the website to look at what else was available.

At the June meeting, we gathered with a sense of anticipation and some trepidation, wondering what the next six months would look like for us all. We were pleased to find out at the first meeting that a pilgrimage could happen without us moving from our meeting place! As one member said 'I wasn't prepared for this concept, having been on a 'real' pilgrimage'. She went on to say that "what I appreciated most was the opening litany inspired by a quote from Pope John XXIII from which I was able to understand progress on the pilgrimage as a spiritual path'.



One advantage for us was the number of associates who had been on pilgrimage to Baggot St or another pilgrimage. This meant we have good discussions and prayer following the reflections. One of the members commented that they "found it to be a very valuable inspiration". And so, we travelled together this spiritual path, some present for all gatherings, but all trying to 'walk' the pilgrimage with the wonderful resources provided to them on the Institute of Mercy website.

All members said they have enjoyed the experience of travelling together and reading the posts from others in the Pilgrims' Place. We all agree that we have got much better at singing the 'Pilgrims Song' which we have done each month. It just remains for us now to find out how we move forward with the session on 'Pilgrim Living' at our December meeting. Thank you to all who have been responsible for providing the excellent resources that have enabled us to travel this pilgrimage together.

For the Traveller

Every time you leave home,
Another road takes you
Into a world you were never in.

New strangers on other paths await.
New places that have never seen you
Will startle a little at your entry.
Old places that know you well
Will pretend nothing
Changed since your last visit.

When you travel, you find yourself
Alone in a different way,
More attentive now
To the self you bring along.
Your more subtle eye watching
You abroad; and how what meets you
Touches that part of the heart
That lies low at home.

How you unexpectedly attune
To the timbre in some voice,
Opening a conversation
You want to take in
To where your longing
Has pressed hard enough
Inward, on some unsaid dark,
To create a crystal of insight
You could not have known you needed
To illuminate your way.

When you travel,
A new silence goes with you,
And if you listen,
You will hear what your heart would
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing;
Make sure, before you go,
To take the time
To bless your going forth,
To free your heart of ballast
So that the compass of your soul
Might direct you toward
The territories of spirit
Where you will discover
More of your hidden life,
And the urgencies
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.
May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest,
Return home more enriched, and free
To balance the gift of days which call you.

John O'Donoghue,
To Bless the Space Between Us

Remembering Pat Bourke

It is with hearts filled with special memories that we remember Pat Bourke, Wife, Mother and Mercy Associate.

Pat passed away on October 7th at the age of 88 years and will be farewelled from St's Peter & Paul's Old Cathedral in Goulburn.

Pat worked tirelessly for the Church and Charity Organisations as well as raise her large family of seven children.

Pat's husband Tom predeceased her many years ago, and her eldest son Bill, passed away just two months ago, which was such a deep sorrow for the family.

Pat was a much loved Goulburn Mercy Associate and dear friend to the Sisters during our years as a Goulburn Congregation.

When the Institute was formed, Pat embraced the new emerging ways of being an Institute Mercy Associate, and was welcomed into the larger Group of Institute Mercy Associates residing in Young.

Wherever Pat went, she proudly wore her Associate badge, and loved to share her knowledge and promote Catherine McAuley, and of course, at the heart of her sharing was her memorable visits to Baggot Street in Dublin. The Works and Charism of Catherine McAuley were certainly deeply rooted in of all Pat's Ministries.

May her generous Soul be welcomed Home to her God, for her good deeds were many.



Lorraine Cupitt rsm

For Peace

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.
For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.
That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.
That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.
That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.
That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares
And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

~ John O'Donohue

As Advent begins...

Advent is time for walking slowly when others are rushing, for travelling lightly when consumers are burdened with merchandise, for eating less when others are eating more, for focus inwards when merry-makers drone in noisy carousing.

Preoccupied with gift lists, Christmas cards and party planning, we allow Advent, this quiet season, to become the most frenetic time of the year.

Without Advent, it is difficult to find the Christmas Christ.

When dazzled by tinsel, we cannot see the star, let alone follow it. When speeding through the countdown before Christmas Day, we bypass the stable, and when our ears fill with jingles about Frosty and Rudolph, we miss the sweet sounds of the angels song.

Mitch Finley, in Ann Rennie & Gemma Thomson, *Prayers and Reflections for Teachers 2021*,