

Welcome! Thank you for spending a few short minutes with us as we introduce you to our Institute's focus on Living Mercy Purposefully.

Whether you are reading this as a sister, staff member, associate, young mercy link or mercy friend, most of us have been living mercy for all our lives.

Our world and individual lives, however, are constantly changing. The late Pope Francis remarked that we are not living in an era of change but a change of era.

While we are always transitioning, often these changes are dramatic. They shake up our lives, yet provide a unique time for renewal and growth so that we can look at the world anew.

Our Institute's Constitutions remind us that we are all part of the one Mercy mission.

This is why we are inviting you to join our Institute-wide focus. For it is as much about the way we are in the world as what actions we take.

Some of us are living out our Mercy mission through a ministry that carries a title, while for others it may be less formal but equally important.

It can be as simple as having an open ear to listen to our neighbours. It can involve us passing on our wisdom to other generations or doing acts of kindness. It is also about being grateful for the moments of Mercy that others show to us.

So, please join us as we begin to explore Living Mercy Purposefully. There are many ways you will be able to do this. You are encouraged to organise a monthly Kitchen Table conversation with others on various topics. Information will be provided each month to guide the conversations and there will be an option to chat online.

Other forums and activities will be organised where we will dig a little deeper into some of the topics.

There is a very easy, yet meaningful way that you can get involved immediately. In the coming weeks, you will receive a reflection card called **Our Daily**

Mercy Examen. It will be distributed through your communities and available on our website.

On it are three simple questions, that you are invited to ask yourself at the end of each day:

- * What opportunities did I have to be Mercy today?
- * What opportunities did I have to receive Mercy today?
- * What gift or grace do I ask for myself, our Institute and our world?

By participating in **Our Daily Mercy Examen**, you will be joining hundreds of other Mercy people across Papua New Guinea and Australia who will be doing the same. You, of course, don't have to wait until you receive the reflection card to start!

Whatever life's circumstances may bring us, we know that God is always with us and with a renewed focus we can navigate this change of era with optimism, joy and hope.

Following the words of Catherine McAuley:

The simplest and most practical lesson we know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow.



Living Mercy Purposefully in this Change of Era

When Pope Francis stated in 2015 that, “We are not living an era of change but a change of era,” he meant that our world is experiencing a profound, structural transformation across technological, geopolitical, environmental and social systems. This shift is marked by the acceleration of artificial intelligence, a fundamental redrawing of global trade maps, a deepening climate crisis and a growing poverty of trust. He argued that the old ways of living, thinking and organising society are no longer effective, requiring a new response from the Church and the world.

As people seeking to bring God’s Mercy to our world, we find that Pope Francis’ prophetic words pose both a challenge and an opportunity for all of us.

The challenge is how we continue to show the Mercy of God to others in a world that is seemingly becoming more merciless. We can also consider how to live, as Pope Francis described, Mercy as a verb - embodied in our everyday lives and actions.

The opportunity lies in our rediscovery and recommitment to our purpose as people of Mercy.

For as complex as the world may be becoming, our gift as Sisters and people of Mercy remains one of knowing God’s loving kindness and sharing it with others. *Our name reminds us that God can be mercy for others through us only when we open ourselves to receive God’s mercy (Constitutions 1.03).*

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus’ followers with the purpose to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Many people have followed in their footsteps, including Catherine McAuley and her companions, by living Mercy purposefully according to the needs of the times. So too can we. Each of our responses is unique, governed by the environment and circumstances in which we are currently living. While diverse, it is in our collective living of our Mercy lives with purpose, that we can truly navigate this change of era.

How can we see Mercy as a verb,
spurring us to action in this
change of era?



What's coming up 24 May - 30 June

As we embark on our Living Mercy Purposefully journey, this month you are invited to:

- ✓ View the [Introductory Video](#)
- ✓ At the end of each day reflect on the three questions from **Our Daily Mercy Examen**
- ✓ Join us on **Thursday, 18 June at 11am AEST** for a presentation by Mary Pellegrino csj on Zoom
- ✓ Get together with others for a **Kitchen Table Conversation** in your local community or join us on Zoom on **Thursday, 11 June at 3.30pm AEST**
- ✓ Share your thoughts and reflections by emailing communication@ismapng.org.au