



*Our Letter
to
Catherine*

September 2026





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September 2026

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Dearest Catherine

It is almost 200 years since the day you opened the doors of your House of Mercy in Dublin. Your vision of a world filled with mercy has captured the imagination of thousands of people who have joined your Mercy family and who have continued to discover ever-new expressions of mercy.

As we began the countdown to this 200th anniversary here in Australia and Papua New Guinea, we invited people within our Mercy circle to reflect on what mercy means to them today.

Responses came from people of all ages and from many different places and walks of life.

We have gathered these responses together in a letter for you, Catherine.

As we listened to these many voices, four themes emerged:

Mercy Begins in the Heart of God

Mercy Is Community

Mercy Creates Justice

Mercy Is Responding

Catherine, thank you for reminding us that the work of mercy is never complete.

God's story of mercy continues to be written through our actions and our words.

And so, Catherine, we ask you to pray for us, that we may continue this story of mercy through a strong commitment to loving service, joy and hope.

As you opened the doors of the first House of Mercy almost 200 years ago, may we continue to open doors wherever mercy is needed today.

From All of Us

To play the video, [click here](#) or click the image below.



Chapter One

Mercy Begins in the Heart of God

Mercy begins in the heart of God. In the life and teaching of Jesus, we encounter Mercy made visible, inspiring us to embody it in the way we live, love and respond to the world.





Mercy is....being a companionable presence without crowding the other out.



Mercy is.... Letting the Light of Christ shine through us.



Mercy is... allowing God's love to wash over all of us.



Mercy ... extends to our family and to all of creation.



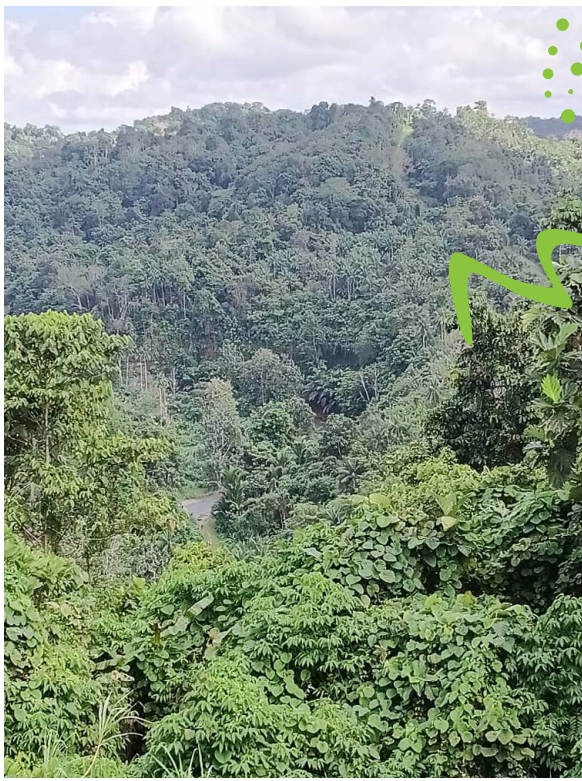
Mercy is... Allowing God to touch all our lives as one community.



Mercy is... God's action through all the seasons of our lives.



Mercy is...sharing our perch with others who may be different.



Mercy is alive.
Mercy is giving and
receiving.

Doreen Mainick

Mercy is...

What does Mercy mean to me today?

How am I experiencing Mercy in my life?

Where do I see Mercy moving in our world?

The above questions invite me to become more conscious of my Mercy life journey daily and of the world around me. I am truly grateful of my calling to Mercy and how I am living Mercy daily is a gift given and shared among all I am conscious and aware that Mercy is vibrant in the world despite challenges.

Mercy is the heart of God breathing and creating every day of my life and in the life of everything.

For me Mercy is heart moved to compassion regardless of what might cost. Mercy is with action.

Cathy Jambet

Mercy is love and compassion that I received from God. I have to show God's love to help other as I want them to do unto me.

Janet Andrew



Mercy Is

Mercy is a woman of indeterminate age
and unremarkable appearance.
She is not fussy about the company she keeps,
and tends to be full of excuses for her friends,
having seen life from their angle.

Her heart, like her pockets, is capacious.
She has a voice rich in tender understanding
But is at her best in silence
when she sits alongside
the grief-stricken and the guilty
and their sorrow seeps into her soul.

Curiously, she sees herself reflected
in the eyes of both murderer and victim,
so sits not in judgement but companionably.
She is a subtle teacher.

She makes strong cups of tea, cup after cup.
Her hands are worn by work
but eagerly sought by the dying.

Her feet are calloused from long roads
trudged with refugee and beggar.
She is an endurer of all horrors.
Mercy has a face wrinkled by kindness
and worn by the cost of living,
but even in hovels she has been given to laughter
and awareness of simple pleasures.

She has a store of lore and wisdom
but is never heard to complain
that she's heard any story
a hundred times before,
believing each teller to be
entitled to a hearing as if to the one and only.

Mercy is a lady comfortable to be with-
the safest and soundest-
blessed in her being
with the indisputable reality
that she is true daughter,
in manner and in mind,
of the maker of the universe.

Mercy is depicted for me in Mary Wickham's poem entitled **MERCY IS**. I couldn't describe it any better.

Thank you, Mary, for inspiring us to be Mercy, to do Mercy and graciously to receive Mercy from our God who is Mercy.

Mary Mutlow



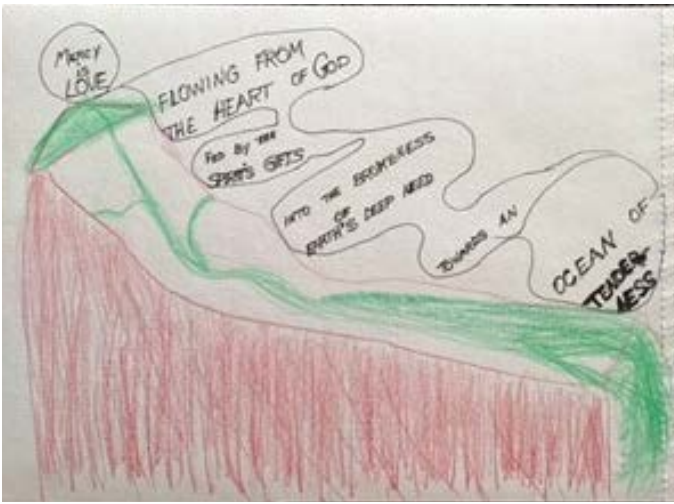
By Mary Wickham

Mercy is...

Mercy looks lovingly at humanity's shame.
Mercy knows the need to respond in Christ's Name.
Mercy sees brokenness, knows limitation,
Trusts in the Spirit, responds without hesitation.

Mercy offers no solution, yet understands the need.
Mercy draws out the courage, the deep call to heed,
The fear, the trepidation, the aloneness of the now,
Mercy allows the flow, the Spirit knows the how!!

Regina Camilleri



Mercy is ... to listen attentively, to show concern and interest and patience to those in need.

I watch the bees in the garden and see them fly from one flower to another. Collecting pollen for the hives. Such a joy and great reflection on the goodness and power of creation.

Mary O'Connor



MERCY IS

The gift of a new day.
With sunrise and sunset
And all that that's between.
Joys and sorrows mark our path,
Friendships will help lighten our hearts.
Laughter, as well, ignites a spark of fellowship
Which strengthens us to dispel the dark
Of age and all that it brings.
Aches and pains are not so bad
When one's heart is light and ever so glad
To welcome the gift of another day

Caroline Coyle

Mercy moves us to dance with...



Elizabeth Young



Monique Nyland



Mercy is New Life.

Nerida Tinkler



Mercy Is

(Reflections on the readings for 15th Sunday in ordinary time. Is 55: 10-11; Matt 13: 1-23) N

Mercy is the word that comes from heaven seeking a place to take root.

She finds rich soil in Catherine in whom the word births a new community:

a community making Mercy a whole way life. Mercy does not return empty but it produces a rich harvest of:

- Healing
- Educating
- Advocating
- Companioning
- Responding
- Listening
- Comforting
- Consoling
- Supporting
- Praying
- Praising

Mercy is the Word that brings life.



Deirdre Gardiner



Many years ago, Nerida Tinkler came to Monte Sant' Angelo Convent to give a talk. At the time, she would, possibly, have been President of ISMA, (Institute of Sisters of Mercy, Australia).

Nerida also shared with us a painting or drawing, and asked what we saw in it. My response was a 'womb'.

I always find it consoling that while I might not remember the content of an inspiring talk or painting, they are not lost, but have become part of me.

And while I am not a theologian, I see the following poem as a relational/ Trinitarian poem – three people involved, and of course, the Holy Spirit.

MERCY WORLD

Spirit-filled womb, alive with Mercy,
contract – give forth the fruit within!
Deal not in stillbirth – Nature's aberration,
choose rather – Life!
Strong, downward pull of gravity
which challenges and tempts abortion of this life
must be defied!
Mercy is Heaven's Child –
conceived of a besotted God,
who seeks, yearns, longs to lavish love and tenderness
on wilful, self-destructing children –
through each to other.

Though sharp, stark pain must be endured
before the final groan and ecstasy of birth,
yet Divine Midwifery hovers close,
in space between the marrow and the bone –
to catch the Child and bear it up,
lest it be consumed by pettiness of soul,
and fear of cost to self,
so Voice that once was heard to cry –
'I will be healed'!
May still be heard today,
and louder – seen in deeds across our world –
through each to other!

Marea Roberts



Mercy has two sides , the giver and the receiver, like the vine and branches. The branches take the life of the Vine outwards and there would not be any branches if it were not for the Vine. One exists for the other and the other exists because of the One.



AND

M

M is moving our love into deeds.

E

E energises us through the Spirit to be the image of God.

R

R reveals all aspects of Love through the whole of Creation.

C

Courage to believe what God can achieve through us. "Christ has no body now but mine" Teresa of Avila.

Y

Yield entirely into the loving arms of God.



These are some of the ways I experience Mercy.

Tricia McCormack

Mercy is ... the silent
song that sings forever
in my heart.

Mercy is ... the silent
song that sings forever
in my heart.



Mercy is ... the silent
song that sings forever
in my heart.



Mercy is ... the silent
song that sings forever
in my heart.



Mercy is growing and understanding the indigenous stories and connections with all of creation; land, water, air.

Helen Nolen



“ Mercy is being kind to everyone.



[Click here to play a video](#)

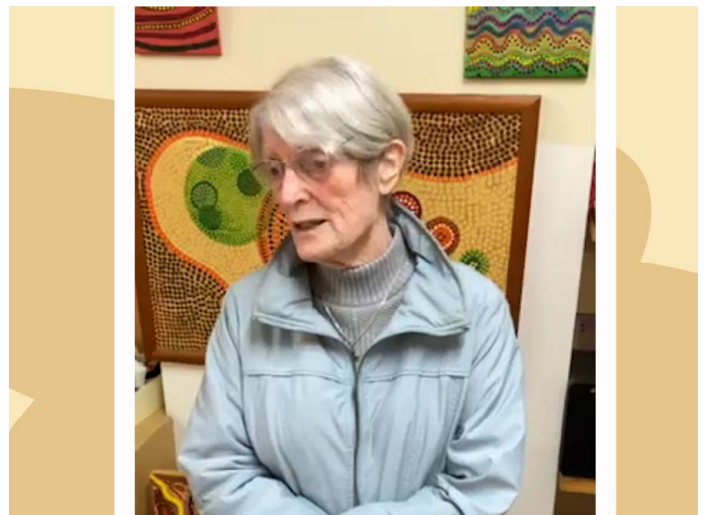
”
Students of
Star of the Sea School,
Henley Beach

Mercy is justice in tears.



[Click here to play a video](#)

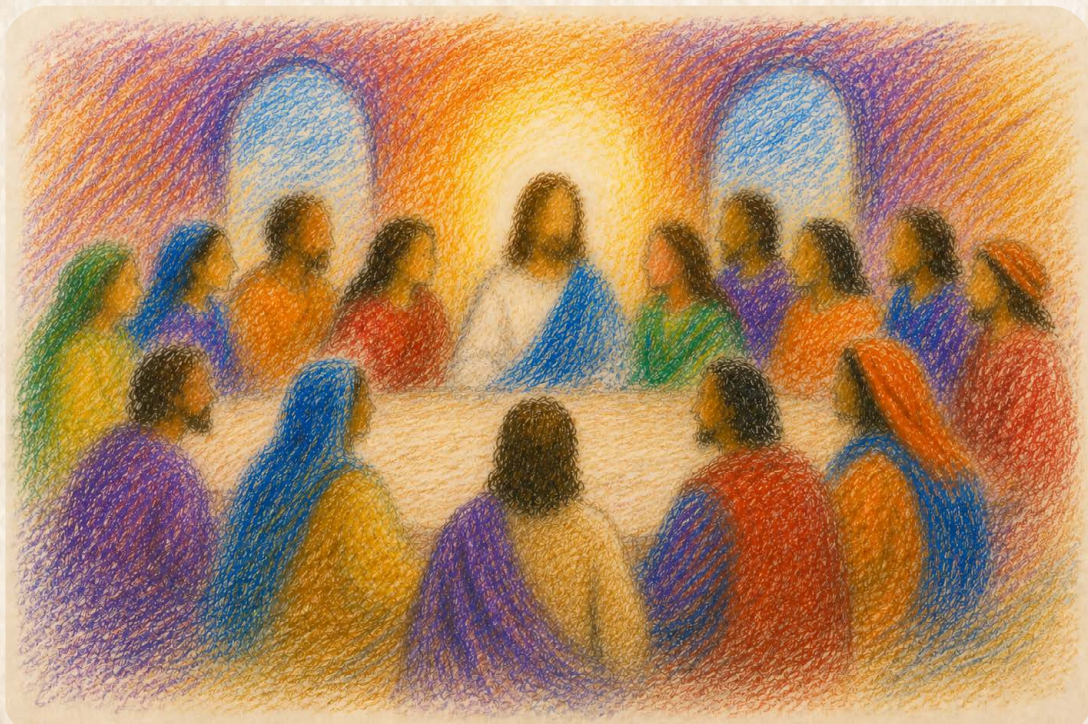
Ruth Egar



Chapter Two

Mercy is Community

Mercy is found in relationship, in friendship and belonging, hospitality and deep listening. It enables us to recognise that each of us have unique gifts and that we are all part of one community, joined with the whole of creation.





Mercy is sharing enjoyment
in life and uplifting one
another.

Bev Armstrong



Mercy is...

Being aware of the happenings in the
lives of those around you and reaching
out to them

Doesn't need to be grand gestures.

A simple hello a smile is enough to let
them know someone cares.

Mercy is not static it has a different face
or gift each day.

It is like a spiral of compassion kindness
energy stillness and hope.

Casino Kitchen Table

*Jan Lang, Jenni Howard, Robyne Walsh,
Deslie Falls*





Here I am with students I taught 64 years ago at Star of the Sea School in Adelaide and over all that time we have remained good friends supporting each other and meeting regularly. I asked each of them to reflect on their long lives and the role of Mercy in raising families, the death of husbands, being Grandmothers and running businesses. Each has responded.

Cynthia Griffin

Deb Tucker, Cynthia Griffin, Catherine Smith, Chris Howard, Teresa Young



It was my lucky day when my parents drove me to Star of the Sea school. It gave me such a start in life - a rounded education, wonderful friends and a teacher I still meet with. This is what mercy means to me.

Chris



Mercy for me is promoting peace and love in my imperfect family by treating each family member with acceptance, encouragement, forgiveness and joy - building in each family member a profound sense of belonging and being loved.

Teresa

Mercy is putting my faith into action.

It is living out the values that my parents modelled for me as I was growing up. My faith also was nurtured by the example of the actions of my Mercy teachers when in high school.

I would like to think that I have a merciful attitude towards those that are in my life as well as with those whom I meet along the way. Being merciful saw me get in to trouble a few times during my working life. I always prayed in those times, the person I was supporting recognised this as my faith in action.

In the faith community I belong too, mercy could take the form of being with like-minded people who help the poor and disadvantaged. Listening to people who are sick or lonely, someone who has dementia, experienced hate or someone who is lost in the struggle of daily life. These vulnerable people are looking for Christ like love, mercy and understanding not sympathy.

Our world at the moment appears to be consumed by the almighty dollar. However, there are organisations, communities, etcetera and wonderful, committed, merciful women and men who live their faith guided by our God of Mercy.

Catherine

Mercy is ...

Mercy is loyalty, steady & true,
Standing beside those who lean on you.
A helping hand when times are tough,
Giving your heart is always enough.

Mercy is family, always near,
The place where love begins is clear.
A bond that is built on kindness, trust & care,
Standing by each other, always there.

Mercy is friendships, lasting through the years,
Sharing the laughter and sometimes tears.
School friends who walked beside you back then,
Are still treasured now, again & again.

Mercy is never asking for more,
Giving without keeping a score.
No expectations, no need for praise,
Just quiet goodness in countless ways.

Mercy is ... '*Loyal en Tout*' – Loyal in Everything

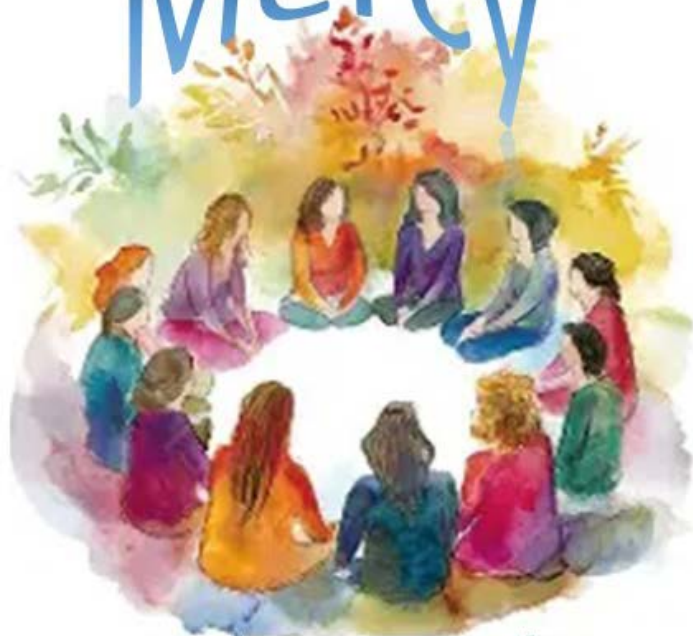
Deb



Mercy is ... Deep listening.

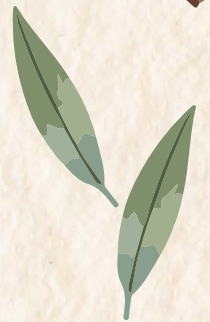
Barbara Broad

Mercy



Is hospitality.

Michele Toussaint



As I reflect on what Living Mercy Purposefully means to me today, I am conscious that I am part of a Village Community which includes several of our sisters and many other residents. Recently we celebrated our annual Big O birthdays where nine of us reached our ninetieth year. It was a joyous occasion with over ninety of us coming together for afternoon tea and the sharing of photos from our earlier years on screen. I am sure Catherine would have been quite at home among us. I am aware too that we use the same Community Centre for our Sunday Masses each week where some of us celebrate the Eucharist together. I assist in preparing the venue and the music for each occasion as we come together as part of another community. We receive mercy and share it with others as we live meaningfully in any community. It is being aware of others and responding to their needs at the time.



Jo Dillon

Mercy is kindness and forgiveness.

Margaret Roni

For me Mercy is the gift of Presence.

Mary Anne Dwyer

Mercy is the simplest kind act that I show to other people who are in need of help.

Mercy is also the gift of listening with compassionate heart.

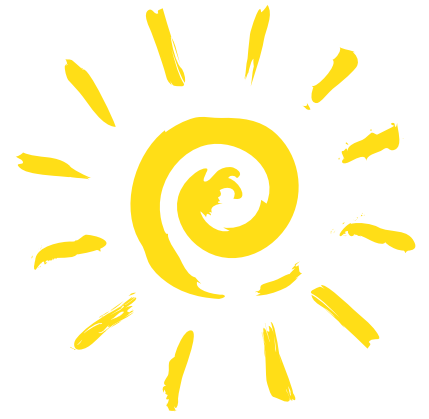
Philomena Waira



This photo speaks strongly to me of Mercy.

Margaret Kelly





We have been inspired by Wendy's painting of Mercy is...

"Mercy is living as a communion of subjects not a collection of objects."
(words from Thomas Berry)

**Wendy Britza-Hay
and Anne Foale**



Mercy is being available to whoever we meet. Truly available. Meaning my total attention to the person I am with. A very challenging experience. Now in my life and ministry.

Mercy is being Mercy to myself. Understanding and acceptance of my age, time, ability, health etc. Having the humility and understanding to accept my failures and being kind to myself, really knowing I can start afresh each day.

In the day-to-day of living in my world, I see Mercy if I approach people and circumstance in a positive and cheerful attitude. It brings the best from people and we are then Mercy to each other.

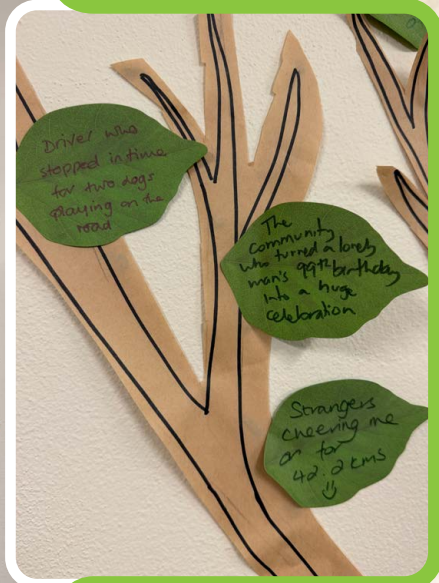
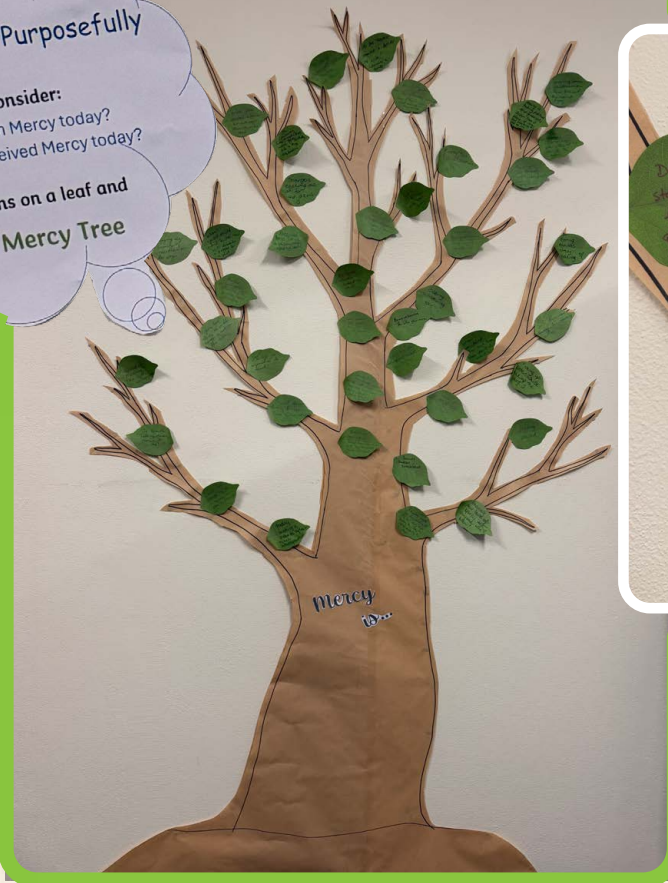


Theresa Foley

Living Mercy Purposefully

Each day, consider:
How have I been Mercy today?
How have I received Mercy today?

Write your reflections on a leaf and
Help Grow Our Mercy Tree



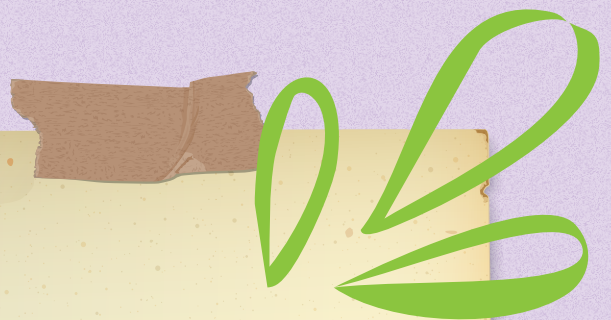
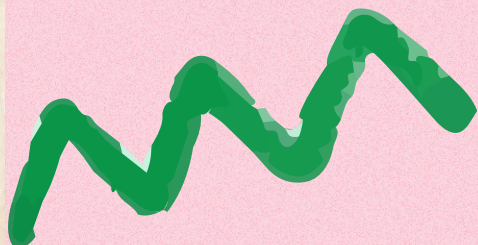
**Sisters and Staff at
the Institute Centre,
Stanmore**





Mercy is found in shared moments of support and understanding.

Sylvia George



Mercy is ... respecting one another - and a smile does wonders for people.

Catherine O'Connor



MERCY IS....

In a book by Joyce Rupp entitled, *The Years of Ripening* I read the following quote from Dag Hammarskjöld:

“Each morning we must hold out

The chalice of our being

To receive, to carry and to give back”

Rupp goes on to say that Gratitude gently moves us toward being generative and that the more we acknowledge how much has been bestowed to us, the better motivated we are to share from the chalice of our fullness.

In Mercy we are being called to be present to, and to lessen, the suffering of those with whom we share our lives, and to serve those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and the lost. We are also being called to ‘an increasing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet.’(Laudato Si)



This means that we are called to accept our own vulnerability first in order to be better able to enter into the vulnerability and suffering of others and all of creation.

The symbolism of the ‘chalice’, the ‘cup of plenty’, speaks strongly to me.

So much that has been poured into ‘the cup of my being’ has not been for me only, but so that much may be ‘emptied from it to benefit humankind’ and our natural environment.

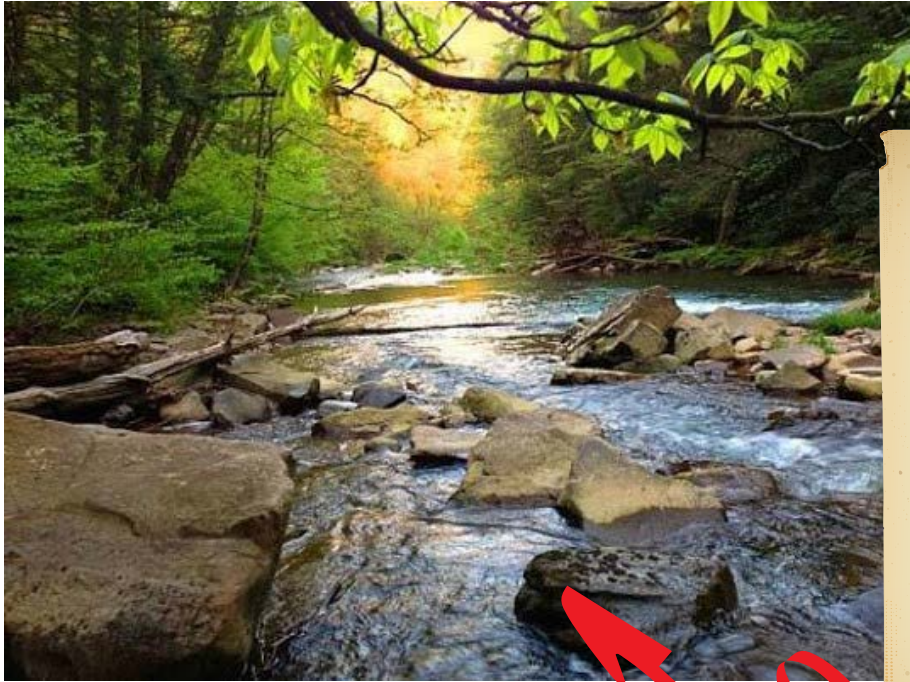


As I reflect on how I am called to live Mercy now, as I have entered the Elderhood years, the more I feel that ‘life is a gift that I yearn to repay’, not in any magnificent or grand ways, but in the often seemingly small and insignificant deeds of everyday life, carried out with love, and in gratitude for all the opportunities that come my way.

And so, for me, Mercy is ‘to share from the chalice of my fullness’.



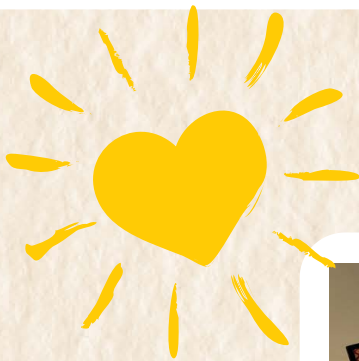
Bev Whitton



MERCY IS AN EVER- FLOWING STREAM

What Mercy responses may
be evoked as I immerse
myself in the stream and
am carried on its daily
journey to the
'Ocean of Mercy'?

Mary Nuttall



Mercy is a song reaching
out to embrace our Earth
community as it evolves.

[Click here](#) to see the posters.



**McAuley Ministries Ltd,
Managers Gathering**



I find myself living Mercy most fully when connecting to others and the rest of creation.

Young Mercy Links



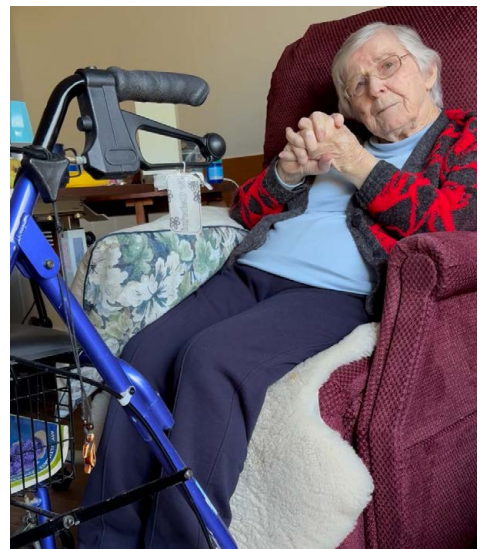
Mercy is respect, compassion and advocating for the elderly.

Denise Johnson



I feel at home around the place and I hope that I make other people feel at home.

Cabrini Mainey



Chapter Three

Mercy Creates Justice

Mercy opens our hearts to the needs of the world and calls us to respond. Justice is Mercy in action - seeking right relationship, standing with those who experience poverty, oppression or exclusion and upholding the sacredness of all.



Mercy is the understanding that water is not only a fundamental human right, but also our life force and worthy of being defended wholeheartedly.



[Click here to play a video](#)

Katelin Lawrie
Water Advocacy Taskforce



Karkungga
Moana Beach, South Australia



Land of Gadubanud People
Hopetoun Falls, Victoria



Warring (Taungurung) / Koninner (Yorta Yorta)
Goulburn River, Shepparton, Victoria

Water Advocacy Taskforce



Mercy is being at one with all living things especially in this season of creation, [click here](#).

Sally Neaves

The Murray-Darling basin is vital for irrigation, wetlands, regional agriculture and First Nations people.





*Mercy is a concrete criterion for political action. (MH#277)
As Catherine McAuley put it:
Do not be disheartened if,
when advocating the claims
of the poor, you receive the
treatment of beggars....
followers of Christ must
share the fortunes of
disciples.*

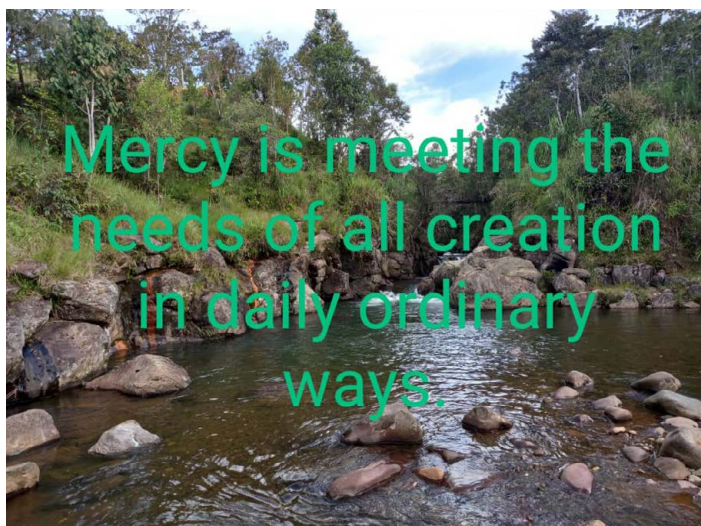
Wendy Flannery

Mercy is seeing the
humanity in others and
responding to it.

Kay Sheridan



Marianna Kawagle Kolkia



"God's Mercies never
come to an end, they
are new every
morning."
Lamentations 3:8-12.

Mercy is a kind look,
the Patient hearing
and a gentle voice.

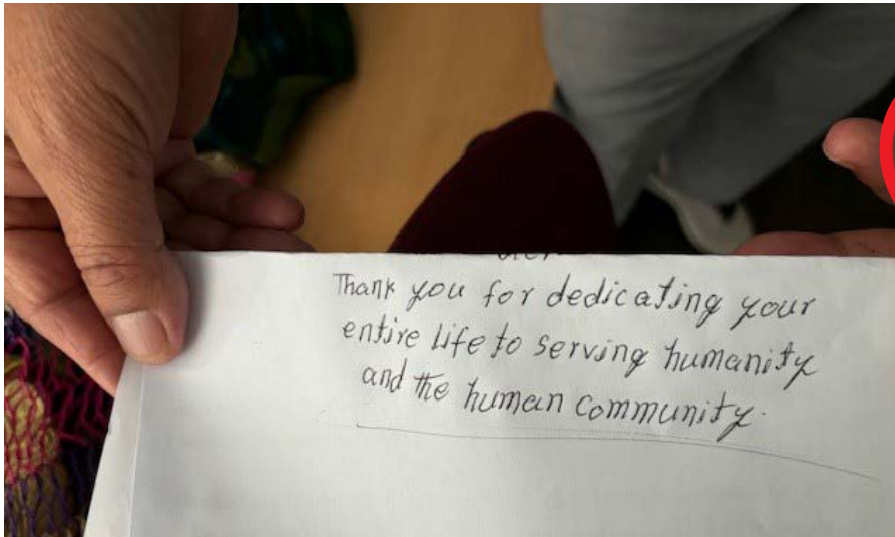


Twelve Facets of Mercy

1. Mercy allows her to acknowledge her vulnerability while accepting it is not a sign of weakness. She has no need for fear or self-pity knowing that her vulnerability, attracts the compassion of God and others.
2. Mercy is owning the need for compassion and forgiveness firstly for herself, from others whom she meets and most importantly from her loving God.
3. Mercy is justice in action. It is to behave with integrity in all her dealings personally, in business, socially, with all persons and the whole of creation.
4. Mercy respects all she meets, treating them with the dignity that is their right.
5. Mercy is generous, appreciating the giftedness of others and offering praise for their achievements.
6. Mercy is not mean in thought or word and always acknowledges the kindness of others.
7. Mercy is open hearted, allowing space for all who call on her love. She greets all whom she meets especially those who are harder to like, with a smile and tries to see the face of Christ in them.
8. Mercy allows her to evaluate the opinion of others without prejudice while putting them alongside her own ideas and weighing the value of each
9. Mercy acknowledges her need to listen to all, to acknowledge when she is wrong and another is right.
10. Mercy impels her to imagine walking in the shoes of another especially in a situation she has never or not yet experienced. Only then will she have an inkling of why and how another behaves.
11. Mercy enables her to find meaning in life, occasionally laughing at herself and her feelings of her own importance.
12. Mercy in conclusion shows her how imperfect she is and how much she needs God's grace at every moment of her life.

Carole McDonald





Mercy is receiving gratitude from an Afghani refugee in my English language class.

His words are a fitting tribute to us all.

Cheryl Camp



'Mercy is....' reminds me of my favourite Mercy quotations over many years. I choose to send these, rather than to write something new, as these quotes have become embedded in my heart, and will remain there always.

Mercy responds always to the cutting edge of human misery. (Mary Joanna Regan RSM)

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just. (Pope Francis)

Mercy is a heart suffering over the sufferings of others. (Thomas Aquinas)

We are challenged to link with one another, so that the broken heart of mercy can enter more deeply into us, and embrace God's beloved poor. (Kath Burke RSM)

Most people call me Mercy. I like it. (Mercedes McCambridge)

Carmel Ruddick

Mercy is...

To me, Mercy is found in the ordinary moments of every day—in treating each person with kindness, listening without judgement, offering reassurance, and taking the time to do even the smallest tasks with care.

When I first began my role as Community Support Assistant for South A-WA, Sr Carmel Daly (Community Leader at the time) gave me a little book of Catherine McAuley's quotes – Inspired by Catherine. One has stayed with me and I have it printed in my office:

There is nothing greater than the perfect discharge of our ordinary duties.

Those words have become a quiet guide in my work. They remind me that what may seem like ordinary tasks can have an extraordinary impact when carried out with compassion, respect and genuine care. Mercy is not only found in the significant moments, but in the countless small interactions that help people feel seen, valued and supported.

On the adjacent page in the Inspired by Catherine book is; *We should be shining lamps giving light to all around us.* I see this as a beautiful reminder to me that even the smallest acts of kindness can brighten someone else's day. It is these ordinary moments that can leave the most lasting light and to me, is what Mercy is.

Christie Ainsworth



Mercy is the love within
that is shown in action

Emma Awehi



God's mercy to me is the heart of the mission to myself, others and in the society we live in ... openness, loving kindness and with compassion to serve others. On the hand, openness to receive God's grace.

Meryline Yasaku

MERCY is the oil that keeps me mobile mentally, spiritually and physically in God's service. It prevents rust setting in via lack of enthusiasm, excuses of old age and failing health, weariness and disinterest. With the spirit of MERCY flowing freely through me, I can keep going each day reaching out to all and sundry with a smile, kind word, acknowledgment of who they are despite any differences.

A simple MERCY action on my part can light up another person's life (and vice versa) like a candle in a dark room dispelling fear and a sense of aloneness and hopelessness. Each day affords me plenty of opportunities to receive and share the gift of MERCY; to appreciate its power to stretch the very fibres of my being; to enmesh me in the circle of MERCY.

Kate McCarthy



Mercy: what
this tree gives ...
Gentle+Patient.

Tall Firm
Gives Fruits
Air
Oxygen
This tree stands
Gives gentle breeze
Firewood etc.
MERCY - This Tree Gives
Gentle+Patient. She is calm judge
When heart is not closed
She listens
Is the heart that feels for others
Mercy is choosing to forgive instead
of get even.

Terri Gongi

Terri Gongi

MERCY IS ...

For me, Mercy is doing what Jesus told the family and friends of Lazarus to do, when he found him in the tomb: **"Unbind him and let him go free!"** Most of Jesus' ministry was about unbinding people from whatever was holding them captive and preventing them from enjoying life in all its richness – the blind, the lame, the deaf, the ignorant, the sick, the accused, the misunderstood, the wounded, the grief-stricken, the lonely, the lost, the poor, the sinner. Catherine McAuley did the same in her time.

At various times of our lives all of us are bound, in one way or another, perhaps by outdated and unhelpful personal narratives, by false beliefs about ourselves and others, by complex and unresolved relationships, by psychological damage from traumatic early childhood experiences, by lack of adequate information and resources, by physical limitations, etc.

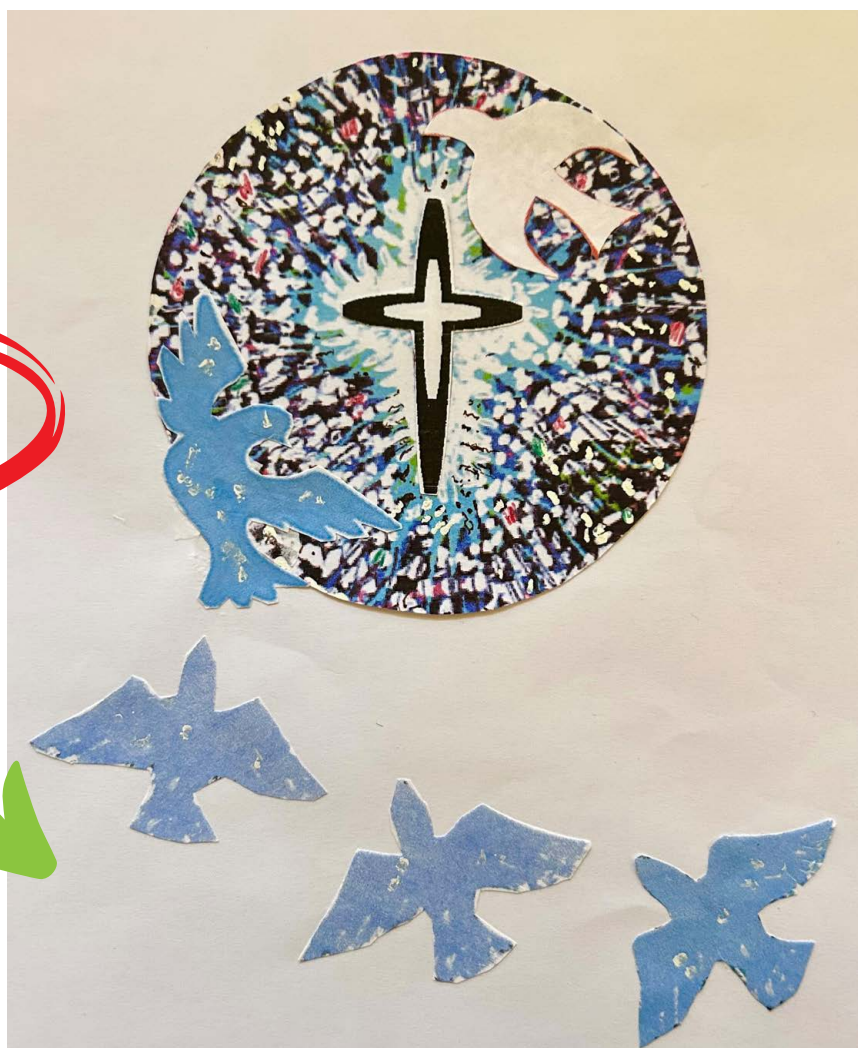
For me, Mercy is looking out for and journeying with those who are bound by life's circumstances, and hearing Jesus say to me, *"Unbind her and let her go free."* I find I can do this by being present and at the service of another with an open, loving, non-judgemental and generous heart, a helping hand, a discerning mind, and if sought, an offering of helpful information and resources, and advocacy.

Eileen Quade



Mercy gives us the capacity to fly in a change of era.

Wendy Britza-Hay





We read in Mtt.10:29 that God is aware when a sparrow falls to the ground; how much more must God be concerned with cruelty suffered by animals at human hands.

Milan Kundera, a Czech novelist, writes: *Humankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view) consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals.*

And so, it seems to me that talking about 'Living Mercy Purposefully' would be incomplete, if we did not include the issue of Animal Cruelty, world-wide, but specifically as it occurs here, in Australia (see RSPCA).

Having become aware of it, we might then support organisations that advocate for its prevention. After all, 'Mercy is' for all in Creation, not just some.

Marea Roberts



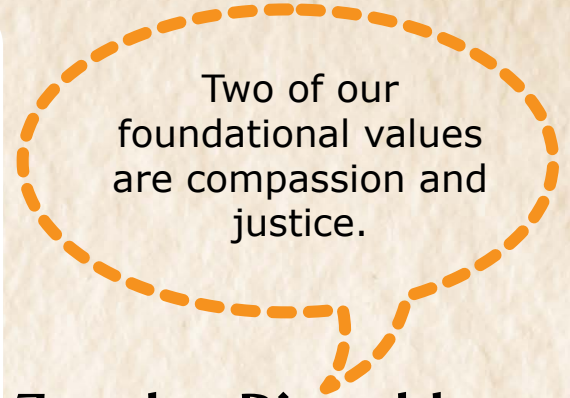
To me, Mercy is like an open door, the welcoming hand and the warmth of a community that says, you belong here and we care about you.

Simona Mussie

Mercy is working together to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

Sarah Puls, ACRATH

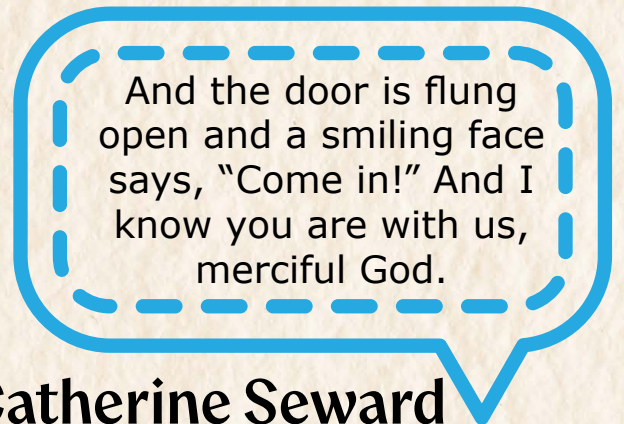




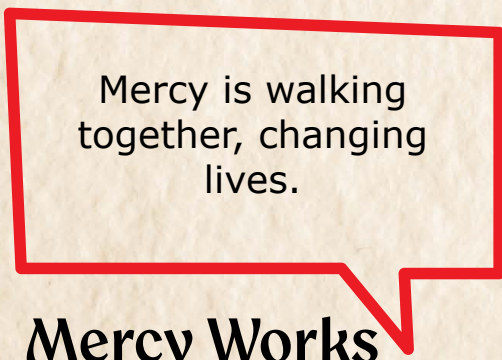
Jocelyn Bignold



Helen White



Catherine Seward



Mercy Works



Chapter Four

Mercy is Responding

Jesus shows us a way of Mercy, and Catherine McAuley followed that path by responding courageously and practically to the needs of her time.

We continue to respond to the needs of this time inspired by Catherines words that we can never say it is enough!





For me Mercy is Action.
Items ready for Wewak
Boram Correctional Institute
visitation.

**Schola Fakiwi on behalf
of Mercy Friends Wewak**



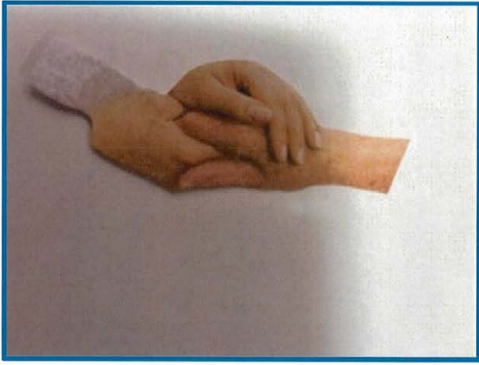
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**Jill Harding**



*Mercy is....*



*As simple as holding a person's hand*



*Walking with someone*



Mercy speaks to me  
of Hope, not by grand  
moments, but by  
FAITHFUL hearts.

**Lorraine Cupitt**

**Marie Mansbridge**



Mercy is the silent force that reawakens  
to new life every moment and instils the  
courage to look to the future with hope.

**Maryanne Kolkia**







## Mercy Is ...

Between now and the beginning of August you are invited to complete the phrase 'Mercy is...' in a written reflection, prayer, poem, photograph, item of craft, dance, song, video, artwork, drawing or other creative response.

Within this theme questions may arise such as:

What does Mercy mean to me today?

How am I experiencing Mercy in my life, ministry, relationships or community?

Where do I see Mercy moving in our world?

All contributions from across our Institute will then be combined into one Letter to Catherine McAuley that will be sent out across our Institute in September.

*Mercy is my awareness of the poor today and to respond with care and compassion - e.g. the voiceless, homeless, displaced etc. Mercy is living a quality of service that brings healing to the broken world. Mercy is sharing a gentle presence of loving care to all people, irrespective of their faith or culture. Mercy community is often challenging as we face our diminishment in different ways. Having a few likeminded friends helps me to live positively and with great gratitude. The generosity of ISMAPNG to provide for my daily needs encourages me to share with others in need. What I have received freely, I am reminded freely with others as gift.*

*The enclosed MORNING OFFERING was composed by Sister McCormack RSJ some time before she died. I find it enables me to stay POSITIVE and GRATEFUL for the blessings of LIFE.*

Mercy is my awareness of the poor today and to respond with care and compassion eg the VOICELESS, HOMELESS, DISPLACED etc.

Mercy is living a quality of service that brings Christ's healing to our broken world.

Mercy is sharing a gentle presence of loving care to all people, irrespective of their faith or culture.

Mercy community is often challenging as we face our diminishment in different ways. Having a few likeminded friends helps me to live positively and with great gratitude.

The generosity of ISMAPNG to provide for my daily needs encourages me to share with others in need. What I have received freely, I am reminded freely with others as gift.

The enclosed MORNING OFFERING was composed by Irene McCormack RSJ some time before she died. I find it enables me to stay POSITIVE and GRATEFUL for the blessings of LIFE.

Lack of Sisters to take on the position of Community Leader challenges us to introduce a non-religious in the near future.

### MORNING OFFERING

God, my Father,  
You Love me and forgive me  
so TODAY

I accept all as gift -  
and ask to find you, Lord  
the Giver in the gift.

I choose to face life  
without fear -  
and to live wholeheartedly  
in each present moment.

May my heart sing today  
a song of grateful thanks  
and praise.

I am God's work of art!  
I am precious in his sight!

- Sister Irene McCormack, RSJ  
Martyred, Peru, 21/5/91

As we already have Pastoral Care positions filled by non-religious, and it has been a very enriching experience.

'Thank you' for creating our programme LIVING MERCY PURPOSEFULLY.

By participating in the Daily Examen at a national/local level, strengthens my desire to be faithful to this way of LIVING MERCY.

May we as MERCY WOMEN continue to be a sign of HOPE, PEACE and LOVE to our world.

THANK YOU for your commitment to ISMAPNG.

**Joan Kelleher**





## Mercy Is ...



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*Mercy is walking with those who grieve bringing them strength.*  
*Mercy is pastoral care for those who are sick and living in Residential Aged Care.*  
*Mercy is listening to persons' struggles as they navigate the journey of life.*  
*Mercy is sitting with the dying and attending the processes organised to respectfully bury the dead.*  
*Mercy is listening to the pain of the world that is in darkness at this time, and bringing it to God for healing, forgiveness, grace and the warmth and brightness of light.*  
 P.T.O.



- Mercy is walking with those who grieve, bringing them strength.
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- Mercy is listening to persons' struggles as they navigate the journey of life.
- Mercy is sitting with the dying and attending the processes organised to respectfully bury the dead.
- Mercy is listening to the pain of the world that is in darkness at this time, and bringing it to God for healing, forgiveness, grace and the warmth and brightness of light.
- Mercy is to sit with God's creation and be filled with gratitude for the beauty of the environment and all living creatures including plants and animals, plus waterways and the sky above us.
- Poem from The Spiritual Canticle of St John of the Cross (Stanza 32):  
 "You looked with love and deep within, Your eyes imprinted grace. This mercy set me free, held in your love's embrace to lift my eyes, adoring to your face".

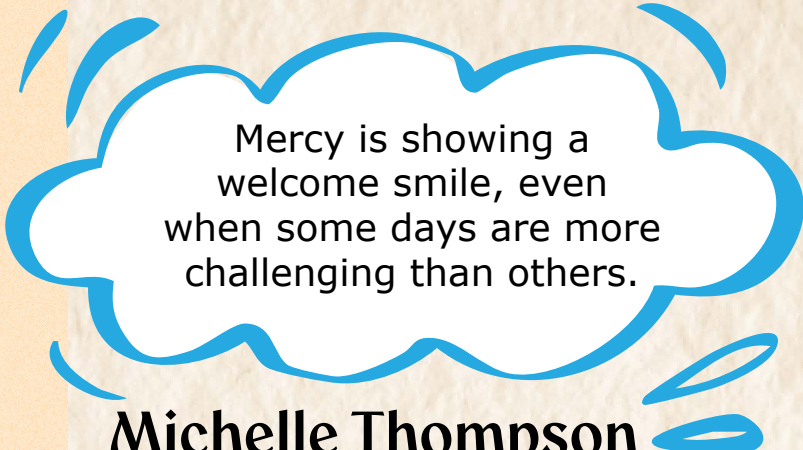
**Maura Kelleher**



As people of Mercy, we are called to care for creation, stand with our neighbours and do what we can to protect our common home.

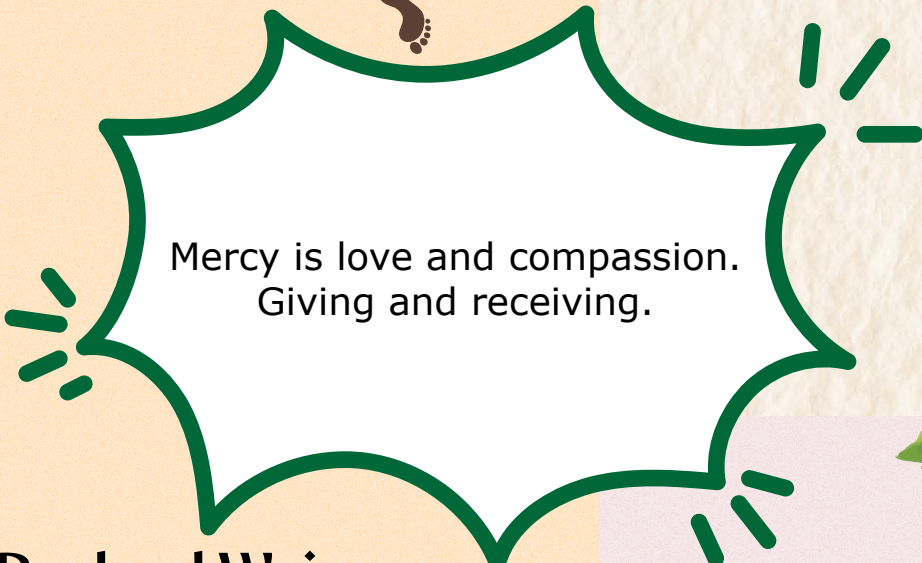
**Meryline Yasaku**





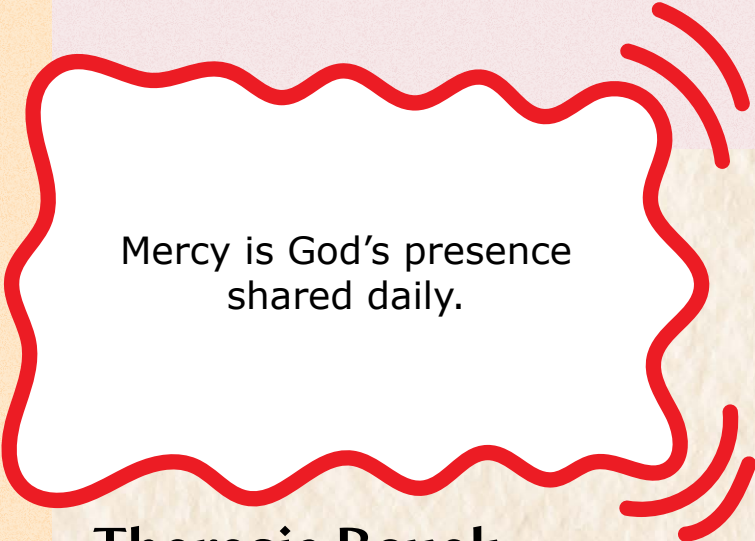
Mercy is showing a  
welcome smile, even  
when some days are more  
challenging than others.

**Michelle Thompson**



Mercy is love and compassion.  
Giving and receiving.

**Rachael Waisman**



Mercy is God's presence  
shared daily.

**Theresia Boyek**



A photograph of a park bench in a park setting. The bench is made of dark wood slats and has ornate black metal legs. It is positioned on a grassy area next to a paved path. In the background, there are trees and another bench, creating a sense of a quiet park environment.

We can never say  
*it is enough!*

*Catherine McCauley*



