



A Christmas Gift



The Nativity
(Edward Burne-Jones)

The image on the left was painted in 1887 by Edward Burne-Jones and is simply titled *The Nativity*.

Although a beautiful piece of work in its own right it was also a preparatory study for a stained-glass window with another famous artist of the time, William Morris.

And so, the story remains the same - but each person and each generation brings their own skills and their own interpretation. We truly hope that this will be the case with our new journey!

The commencement of Mercy Ministry Companions in December presented the same challenges for all of us at this time of the year – long to-do lists, tired people and overwhelming *busyness*.

But what a truly great gift Christmas is for us - the birth of Jesus Christ underlines the long and significant historical context of our mission and our works, and the hope and opportunity of the newborn child fills us with excitement and joy about the possibilities of the years ahead.

On behalf of the Trustee Directors, I express my deep thanks to Sr Eveline Crotty, the Leadership Team and the sisters of ISMAPNG for their faith in the Holy Spirit and in Mercy Ministry Companions.

I also thank the leadership and staff of ISMAPNG, and at each of the Ministries, for their significant efforts which have culminated in a successful transition process.

And to all of you, my wishes for a peaceful and joyous Christmas, in the company of loved ones.

Margaret Bounader (Chair)

A Prayer for Advent

God of Peace, long awaited one, people have waited for you in years past as they anticipated the celebration of your birth.

Give us patience to use this Advent waiting time to focus on the things which are lifegiving and which bring hope and the promise of a better future to our world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our guide and companion,
Amen.

Entrusting Ritual

On 03 DEC 2021, a ritual was held via Zoom to mark the establishment of Mercy Ministry Companions as a ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) within the Australian Catholic Church.

On behalf of ISMAPNG, Institute Leader, Eveline Crotty RSM, formally entrusted the Institute's Community Services, Education and Health Ministries to the governance of MMC. Margaret Bounader, Chair of the Trustees, responded on behalf of MMC, acknowledging and celebrating the rich history of the ministries being entrusted to MMC.

Prayers were offered by Sylvia Williams RSM on behalf of Mercy Education, Matthew Clancy on behalf of Mercy Community Services Australia and John Corcoran on behalf of Mercy Health Australia.

A public celebration to mark the establishment of Mercy Ministry Companions is being planned for 25 MAR 2022, in Sydney.

Transition & Christmas Arrangements for DEC 2021 & JAN 2022

The contacts listed below are available throughout the entire DEC - JAN period, noting that non-urgent enquiries received between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day may not receive an immediate response.

General ministry questions, meeting enquiries and papers	ministries@mercyministrycompanions.org.au Joe Konynenburg
Reporting of critical incidents	margaret.bounader@mercyministrycompanions.org.au Margaret Bounader
Property issues requiring the involvement of the Owner (McAuley Property Limited)	mpl@mercyministrycompanions.org.au Joe Konynenburg

Commissioning of MCSAL Directors and Ministry Leaders

On 07 DEC 2021 the first meeting of the “MCSAL Board” was held. This is the terminology we are using for meetings of the concurrent (or shared) Board of:

- Mercy Community Services Australia Limited
- McAuley Community Services for Women
- Mercy Connect Limited

The meeting featured a Commissioning Service where Margaret Bounader, Chair of the Trustees of Mercy Ministry Companions, formally commissioned the Chair of the MCSAL Board, Mr Matthew Clancy, and the Directors: Kerry Brettell, Bridgid Connors, Michelle Cotter, Brian Keane, Shoba Martin, Ella McPherson, Marcelle Mogg, Elizabeth Moloney RSM, Mark O’Connor and Louise Reeves RSJ.

On behalf of the MCSAL Board, Matthew acknowledged the Ministry Leaders of MacKillop Family Services (Brian Keane and Robyn Miller and their team); McAuley Community Services (Sonja Hood, Jocelyn Bignold and their team); Mercy Services (Peter Williams, Tony Bidstrup and their team) and Mercy Connect (Matthew, Trent Dean and their team) for everything they had contributed to the establishment of MCSAL.

The MCSAL project is a new and exciting approach which will provide a firm foundation for the support and growth of our community services Ministries. We wish the MCSAL Board, and the Ministry leaders, the very best as they work together to construct this exciting new governance framework.

On 01 JUL 2022 Mercy Services in NSW will transfer their civil governance to the MCSAL Board, and on 01 JAN 2024 MacKillop Family Services Limited will also join. The MCSAL Board will also remain open to receiving or developing other ministry opportunities.

New Invitation Protocols

As mentioned in our last newsletter new protocols are now in place for invitations to significant Ministry events.

To invite Trustee Directors to an event please email ministries@mercyministrycompanions.org.au

Invitations should be addressed to :

Ms Margaret Bounader (Chair)
Mercy Ministry Companions Council

Invitations addressed to Margaret will be assumed to be for each and any of the Trustee Directors, unless otherwise specified. As a general principle please do NOT send separate invitations for each Trustee Director to the same event.

An exception may be made where there is a connection or reason for inviting a specific Trustee Director. In this case the invitation should still be sent to the main ministries@ email address.

Trustee Director Meetings 2022

Month	Meeting (Day 1 of 2)	Papers Due	Location
JAN	MON 31 JAN	MON 17 JAN	Melbourne VIC
FEB	MON 28 FEB	MON 14 FEB	Mercy Education, Fitzroy VIC
MAR	THU 24 MAR	THU 10 MAR	Sydney NSW
APR	THU 28 APR	THU 14 APR	Mercy Connect, Albury NSW
MAY	MON 30 MAY	MON 16 MAY	Mercy Health, Heidelberg VIC
JUN	MON 27 JUN	MON 13 JUN	Mercy Services, Newcastle NSW
JUL	MON 25 JUL	MON 11 JUL	Mercy Health, Montrose VIC
AUG	MON 29 AUG	MON 15 AUG	Mercy Education, Perth WA
SEP	MON 26 SEP	MON 12 SEP	McAuley Community Services for Women, Footscray VIC
OCT	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	
NOV	MON 07 NOV	MON 24 OCT	MacKillop Family Services, Blacktown NSW
DEC	MON 12 DEC	MON 28 NOV	Melbourne VIC

The first day of the monthly Trustee Director meetings will generally be set aside for the purposes of formation and ministry engagements.

Whilst individual Ministry activities will be tailored to each location, these will generally involve:

- Morning or afternoon tea with local staff
- Presentations on current Ministry issues, updates, facility tours (up to two hours)
- Lunch or dinner with ministry leaders