



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

March 2023

Reflection: Discovering meaning in our daily challenges

With our 40-day Lenten journey well under-way, we are now looking forward to Easter. Sometimes, in these weeks before Easter, it is difficult to make connections between our own life-journey and the journey to Jerusalem undertaken by Jesus that is unfolding in the scriptures. However, the language of 'faith' can connect with the ordinary language of human experience and help to provide us with meaning and purpose at this time.

Most of us reading this reflection do not have to look far to recognise our daily crosses, or see them in those with whom we live or work. We have experienced times of doubt or confusion; serious illness or incapacity; the death of loved ones, family or friends; the effects of accidents, tragedies or natural disasters; betrayal and misunderstanding; loss of income or other assets through addiction; relationship breakdowns; loss of self-confidence and self-esteem. Our daily crosses can be obvious or hidden, solitary or shared. We can feel burdened by them for a long time, before any sense of meaning or way forward might emerge from the trauma which has occurred.

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Mercy International Association's 2023 Lenten Series continues

This year's Mercy International Association's (MIA) Lenten Series explores the theme of 'Journey'.

There is a recorded video prayer session each Wednesday as well as written Lenten reflections each Monday and Friday. Each video session is hosted by a different member of our global Mercy world, and each written reflection is prepared by the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellows.

[Register](#) to receive the MIA online resources.



MMC Trustee Directors visit Adelaide

Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) Trustee Directors enjoyed a two-day trip to Adelaide this month, the first since the establishment of MMC in 2021.

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Celebrating Mass with our neighbours

The Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) office is located in the Marist Centre Melbourne and is co-located with other Catholic Ministries including Marist Schools Australia, Marist Youth Ministry, Mary Aikenhead Education and Jesuit Social Services.

MMC staff were recently invited to celebrate Mass with their colleagues in the Chapel at the Marist Centre Melbourne, lead by Fr Michael Casey, retired priest from St Ambrose Parish. We look forward to sharing more of these occasions with our neighbours.



Mercy Education Deputy Principals' Network

In early March, Deputy Principals from across the Australia Mercy Education Schools Network attended a two-day seminar at Mount Lilydale Mercy College in Lilydale. Participants took part in professional learning and Mercy formation and enjoyed the opportunity to network with colleagues in senior leadership roles from across the Mercy Network.

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Melbourne Catholic Schools helping NASA

Catholic Regional College Caroline Springs, and Mount Lilydale Mercy College will partner with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in the Australian pilot of the 'Growing Beyond Earth' (GBE) program, to help NASA find new foods that can be successfully grown and eaten in space.

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Mercy Education: Seeds of Justice Annual Report

Mercy Education have released their Seeds of Justice Annual Report 2022.

[DOWNLOAD REPORT](#)



Mercy Hospital for Women Unveils Heritage Wall

On International Women’s Day, Angela Nolan, Mercy Health Group Chief Executive Officer, unveiled Mercy Hospital for Women’s new Heritage Wall, a visual and cultural installation showcasing Mercy Health’s journey for more than a century.

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Minister praises Werribee Mercy Hospital staff

Victoria’s Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, has praised hard-working staff at Mercy Health’s Werribee Mercy Hospital (WMH) for their efforts in reducing post-COVID patient wait lists for planned endoscopies across Melbourne’s west.

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McAuley Builds on Mercy legacy, opening Wilma's Place

On 2 March McAuley CEO, Jocelyn Bignold OAM, and Victorian Minister for Housing, Colin Brooks, opened Wilma's Place, a newly completed development of 12 architecturally designed apartments for women and children who have been homeless. The development sits on the site of the Sisters of Mercy's original crisis accommodation centre opened three decades earlier.

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Mercy Connect's new podcast series

Mercy Connect has launched a new podcast series, "Together We Grow", sharing contemporary issues and trends affecting people with disabilities, and those who work within the disability sector.

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MacKillop celebrates inspiring women

On 8 March, MacKillop Family Services joined organisations around the world in celebrating International Women's Day. This year, MacKillop chose to celebrate the inspiring women who create change, influence a positive future and drive meaningful action.

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THURS 27 APRIL

Registrations Closing Soon!

Consultation on the creation of Water Advocacy Resources for use within Ministries

1-3pm, AEST (via Zoom)

Presenters: Sally Neaves and Cathy Solano RSM and members of the ISMAPNG Water Advocacy Taskforce.

[Register here](#)

Formation

The [Orientation to Mercy Program](#) includes 7 modules with online resources for Induction of staff and volunteers.

The Program can be used with small groups or as a self-paced Induction Program for staff or volunteers new to MMC Ministries or Ministries with a 'Mercy heritage'. Individual Modules can also be used for ongoing formation with larger groups of staff.

Applications have been made to Catholic Education WA (approved), Catholic Education SA (approved) and Melbourne Archdiocesan Catholic Schools (approved) for six hours Accreditation for educators completing the Program in 2023.

[Download the Workbook and each of the 7 Modules.](#)

For further information, please [email Annette Schneider RSM](#), MMC Formation Coordinator.

Please share this Mercy Ministry Companions Newsletter with your colleagues and [opt-in for further communications.](#)



Mercy Ministry Companions acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Australians.

Our National Office is located on the lands on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and our Ministries operate across the country and across a range of other indigenous lands and clans.

We acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across this land.

We respectfully recognise Elders both past and present.

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