



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

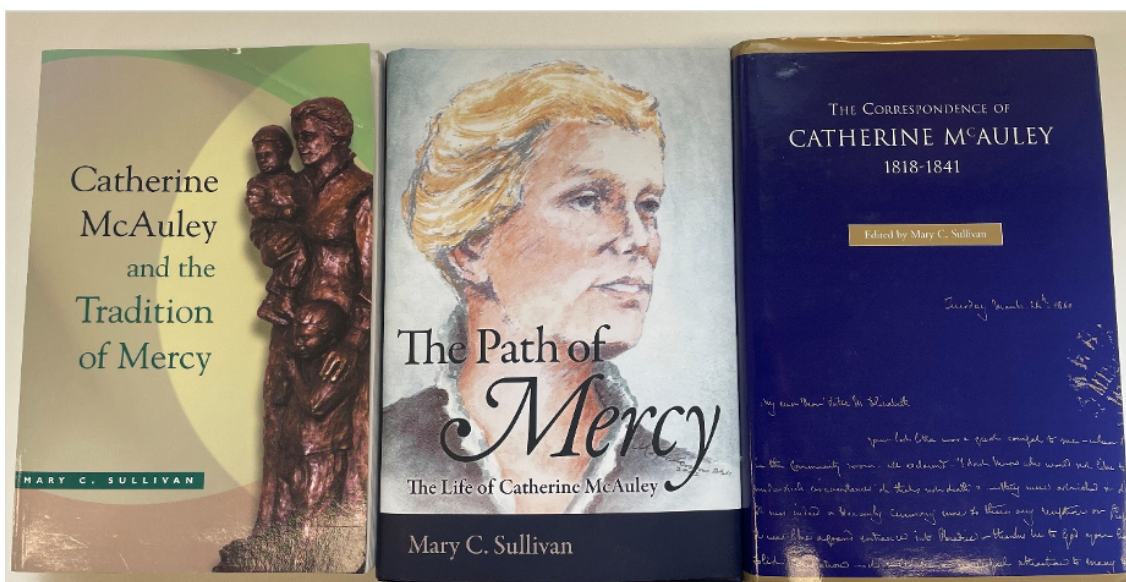
April 2023

Reflection: Coming to faith – ordinary events are a window to the extraordinary

The stories told by the early witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus present to us a picture of their reality. Even though these events took place over two thousand years ago, we can relate to the stories and the insights into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, shared by the Gospel writers with their communities.

Within our families and our ministry communities, we likely have read, listened to, or told others about our 'founding stories'. Such stories are precious. Just like the Easter stories, they tell of the experiences of loss, fear, disbelief, sadness, disillusionment, journeys taken, reunions, faith, joy and hope for an unknown future. These stories tap into the depths of the human spirit, the goodness and courage of ordinary people. These founders, women and men of faith, were able to do things which today, inspire us to continue their work through our contemporary Community Service, Education and Health and Aged Care Ministries.

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Vale Sr Mary C Sullivan RSM

The Mercy community was saddened to hear of the death of Mercy Sister and renowned Mercy historian, Mary C Sullivan, on March 21, 2023. We owe a great debt to Mary for her scholarly research and insightful writing, the fruits of which have enabled us to learn so much about Catherine McAuley and the early Sisters of Mercy. Three publications in particular provide a window into the heritage and traditions on which our contemporary Mercy Ministries are based:

- *Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy* (1995)
- *The Correspondence of Catherine McAuley 1818 – 1841* (2004)
- *The Path of Mercy* (2012).

May Mary now rest in the peace of our God of Mercy.

[Watch a short video of Sr Mary Sullivan RSM speaking about writing her books](#)

Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)

Thank you, Rowena McNally, founding Trustee Director

On Tuesday 18 April, the Trustee Directors and staff of MMC were joined by the Institute Leadership Team (in their capacity as members of the MMC Sponsors Representative Group), to thank Rowena McNally for her contribution to MMC as a founding Trustee Director.

Rowena, who had travelled from Brisbane for the occasion, was welcomed by Margaret Bounader, Chair of the Trustee Directors. Bishop Terry Curtin DD celebrated the thanksgiving Eucharist in the chapel at the Marist Centre in Dawson Street, Brunswick, where the MMC offices are located. Following the liturgy, guests were invited to stay and enjoy afternoon tea together.



Mercy Ministry Companions staffing update

April has been a busy month at MMC, with a number of staff transitions.



Tony Holt, MMC Business Manager

We are delighted to welcome Tony Holt, who has joined the team as MMC Business Manager.

Tony brings a wealth of experience to this role. He has worked for the past 16 years as Business Manager at Catholic College Wodonga.

[CONTACT TONY](#)



Daniela Paradiso, MMC Ministry Property Manager

Daniela Paradiso, MMC Ministry Property Manager, is now working Monday to Thursdays at MMC.

[CONTACT DANIELA](#)



Joe Konyenburg

We farewell Joe Konyenburg our initial Transition Manager, then Business Manager, who has been fundamental to the creation of Mercy Ministry Companions. We thank him for his invaluable contribution and we wish him well in his role with the Carmelites.

Mercy Education



Sacred Heart College Geelong celebrates Foundation Day

On Sunday 26 March, Sacred Heart College Geelong celebrated its annual Foundation Day. The celebration began with a thanksgiving Mass, led by Fr Sang Ho and was attended by students, current and former staff, Sisters of Mercy, Gabrielle McMullen MMC Trustee Director, and Alumni.

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Mercy Health



Enhancing cultural safety across the health care system

In April, the Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, visited Werribee Mercy Hospital to meet with Aboriginal Programs' team members, who provide support and advocacy to Aboriginal patients during their time in hospital. The Programs' aim to enhance cultural safety across the health care system and address the inequities in Aboriginal health outcomes.

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A new reality at Werribee Mercy Hospital

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Werribee, young patients at Werribee Mercy Hospital now have access to virtual reality goggles to help curb their anxieties around needle administration and other medical procedures.

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Mercy Community Services



MacKillop expanding services in the ACT

As of 31 March 2023, residential care services across the ACT will now be provided by MacKillop Family Services. These new homes will be an extension of MacKillop's current operations, supporting young people who are unable to live at home.

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Parity puts spotlight on 'Safe at Home'

McAuley's 'Safe at Home' Program, which explores the damaging link between family violence and homelessness and advocates for an approach to prevent it, has been featured in a special edition of Parity Magazine, Australia's leading national homelessness publication.

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Mercy Connect celebrates investment in learning

Last year, Mercy Connect held a graduation ceremony for fifteen employees who had completed a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management qualification, delivered by The Management Edge. Together with waggawagga.tv, Mercy Connect has now created a video highlighting the importance of industry collaboration and the need for greater investment in learning and development for those working within the disability sector.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Formation



Mercy Leadership Program and Dublin Pilgrimage

The 2023 Mercy Leadership Program and Dublin Pilgrimage, sponsored by Mercy Ministry Companions, has commenced. Module One was held over two days 30-31 March, at the Catholic Leadership Centre.

The group's 27 participants include Board Directors and Executives from MMC Ministries, participants from the Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISM PNG), Mercy Works (a ministry of the four congregations of Sisters of Mercy in Australia), Damascus College Ballarat and the Parramatta congregation.

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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 of the 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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