



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

February 2024



What does Synodality mean for Mercy Ministry Companions?

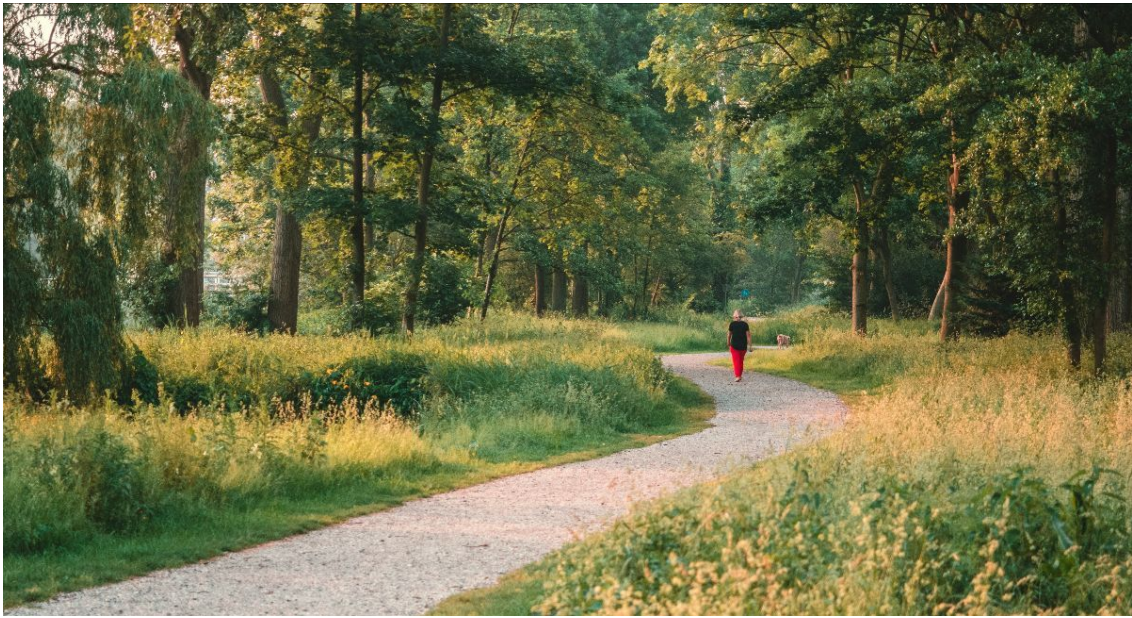
Reflection by **Gabrielle McMullen AM**

In preparation for the 2023-2024 Synod in Rome, Pope Francis invited the Church to rediscover its *synodal* nature. What does synodal mean for the Church and more specifically for Mercy Ministry Companions?

Three dimensions characterise a synodal Church: *Communion*, *Participation* and *Mission* – we are called “towards deeper communion, fuller participation, and greater openness to fulfilling our mission in the world.”

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Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)



Our 40-day Lenten journey towards Easter

Message by Annette Schneider RSM, MMC Formation Coordinator

Easter falls early this year so we can be forgiven if the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday crept up on us! The challenge is not to let this potentially rich, formative time pass us by.

The Church invites us into a time of spiritual growth, to be intentional in three aspects of our engagement with all of creation...

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2024 MMC Formation Resources

MMC has developed resources which may be helpful for ministries welcoming staff new to Mercy or new to your ministry and MMC in 2024. **The Orientation to Mercy Program** and the **MMC Welcome Pack** are both available on the MMC website.

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Joint Formation Session with Mercy Health Board

In early February, MMC Trustee Directors met with the board and Executive of Mercy Health Australia Ltd for a half-day formation session where participants enjoyed presentations from a range of speakers. Trustee Directors will hold a joint session with the boards of Mercy Education and MCSAL later in 2024.

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Celebrating 'Great Women of Faith'

In celebration of International Women's Day 2024, St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne will host the 'Great Women of Faith' Exhibition by German artist Barbara Skorupa.

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Mercy Education



Mercedes College Welcomes New Principal

As the school year began, the Archbishop of Perth, Timothy Costelloe SDB, commissioned the new Principal of Mercedes College, Dr Lucie McCrory, at the College Mass held at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth.

Christopher Houlihan, Chief Executive Mercy Education Ltd (MEL) and Georgina Smith, MEL Board Chair, welcomed Lucie into the community. Lucie affirmed her dedication to uphold the charism of the Sisters of Mercy and the Mission of Mercedes College to continue to create a community of learning, faith and growth for all its members.



Celebrating the Opening of the School Year

On 12 February Trustee Director Gabrielle McMullen joined the community of St Aloysius College in North Melbourne for the Opening School Year Mass, led by local parish priest, Fr Thang Vu.

It was a joyous occasion with active participation by the school community and introduction of the College theme for 2024.

Mercy Health



Werribee Mercy Hospital's new Emergency Department

In December last year, the Minister for Health Infrastructure, Mary-Anne Thomas, released the designs for the new \$109.6 million Werribee Mercy Hospital (WMH) Emergency Department (ED) project.

The new Emergency Department will double the current patient capacity at WMH, allowing staff to treat an additional 25,000 emergency presentations each year. Site works have now commenced, with the expansion expected to be completed in 2026.

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Mercy Health staff recognised in Honours List

Mercy Health is thrilled to celebrate the achievements of two of its staff, the late Dr Peter John Maher and Mr Eris Daniel Gleeson, both recognised in the 26 January Honours List 2024.

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Mercy Community Services



Welcome to Charles Reis, Chair of Mercy Community Services Australia Ltd

The Trustee Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions warmly welcome Charles Reis, as the new Chair of Mercy Community Services Australia Ltd. Charles joined the board in December 2023 and has enjoyed visiting each of the ministries of MCSAL over the summer.

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McAuley celebrates milestone in Ballarat

McAuley recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of the opening of [McAuley House Ballarat](#), formerly home to Ballarat-based Sisters of Mercy, and its first accommodation service outside of Melbourne.

The accommodation is pioneering an innovative approach to support people as they age, involving 14 small and connected households rather than a large, impersonal and institutional setting. Since opening in 2019 the McAuley team has helped more than 80 women, including residents and women living in the community, to rebuild their lives.

Former resident Tania, [shares what McAuley House Ballarat means to her](#).

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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