

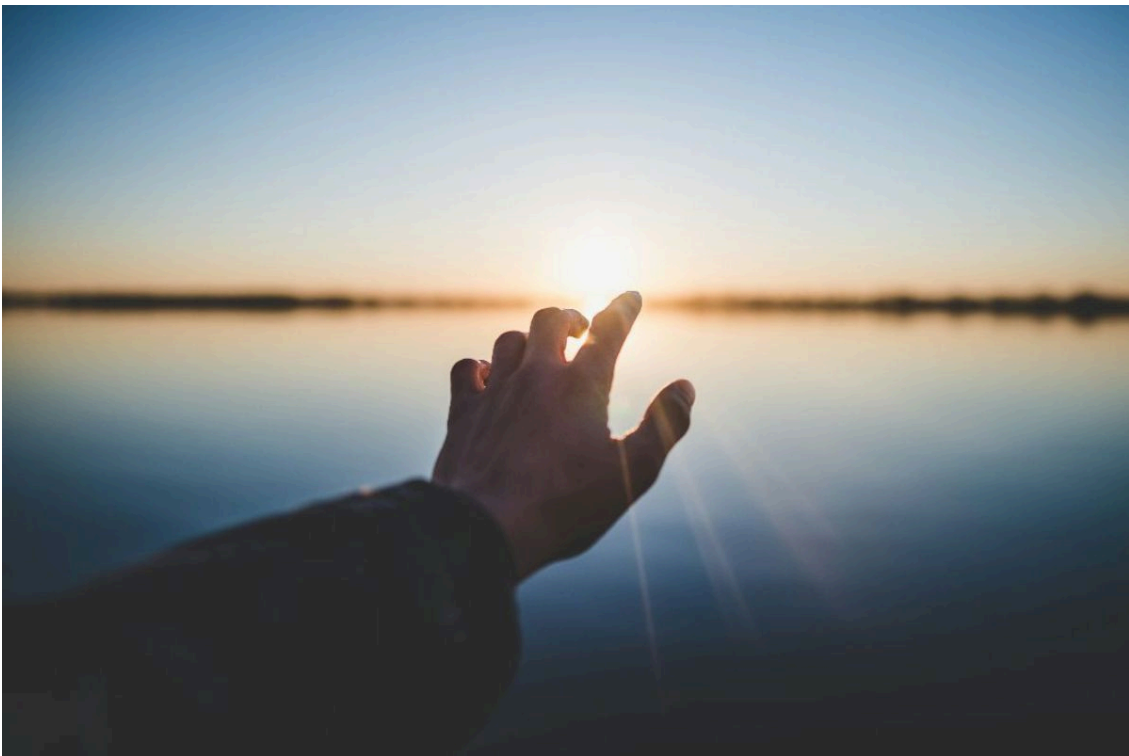


Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

March 2024



Reflection: Easter, a time for hope

by **Annette Schneider RSM**

Here we are in Holy Week. We find ourselves amidst the clutter and noise, balancing competing demands for our precious time and filtering the 'Easter-themed' advertisements for chocolates, food and sporting events. As Easter approaches, the Church invites us to stop for a while and to ponder what it is that we are celebrating.

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Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)

Mercy Mission Formation Network 2024 Gathering

The Mercy Mission Formation Network (MMFN) is for people involved in mission-related roles in ministries with a Mercy heritage across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The Network, which has been operating for many years, meets annually, and new members are most welcome.

This year the MMFN annual gathering will be held 8-10 May in Melbourne at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, where participants will explore the theme of **'Synodality in our Mercy Space.'** [Click here](#) for more information or to view the proposed agenda.

[Register here](#)



Breakfast session with Sr. Elizabeth Davis RSM

Mercy Mission Formation Network (MMFN) is thrilled to announce that Sr. Elizabeth Davis RSM will be hosting a breakfast session on Friday 10 May, as part of the MMFN 2024 Program. During this session Sr Elizabeth will discuss **'What Does Synodality Look Like in the Mercy World?'**.

You can join this session in person or online. **Registrations close Wednesday 1 May.** To register for this event, please use the registration link above. For more information [click here](#).



Join the Mercy Water Justice Coalition

Are you passionate about water issues and eager to put your Mercy organisation on the map?

Mercy Global Action has launched the Mercy Water Justice Coalition, Mercy Global Action's response to the growing commodification, degradation, and depletion of Earth's precious water sources. The Coalition is currently seeking **Mercy Water Leaders** who are passionate about water issues.

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Mercy Education



Mercy Principals Network Meeting

This month, Mercy Education and Affiliate Principals met at Sacred Heart College Geelong, for the Mercy Principals Network Meeting. The three-day event included presentations from Fr Elio Capra SDB on 'Dare to lead from a Christian perspective', Tracey Ezard on 'Leading through change', and Emma Llewellyn RSM on 'Catherine McAuley and Everyday Leadership that looks to the future: a time for reflection'.



Mercy Education Deputy Principal Seminar 2024

Also this month, Mercy Education Limited (MEL) hosted their annual Deputy Principals Seminar at St Aloysius College, North Melbourne. Approximately 30 Deputy and Assistant Principals from Mercy Education Schools, as well as affiliate member schools from Victoria and Queensland attended the two-day event.

The theme for the seminar was 'Controlling the Narrative' and participants enjoyed presentations from guest speakers including Louisa Rennie, Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools and Jason Newman from legal firm Gilchrist Connell.



Mercy Health celebrates International Women's Day 2024

Teams at Mercy Health were excited to celebrate International Women's Day held on 8 March this year. The theme, *Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress*, focussed on ensuring women and girls have equal opportunity to build their capabilities and strengthen their capacity to learn, earn and lead.

'Count Her In' trees were installed at Mercy Hospital for Women, Werribee Mercy Hospital and Mercy Health residential aged care homes, to give staff an opportunity to write a special message about the women in their teams who inspire them to learn and lead. The Mercy Health Team also formally recognised the achievements of women across Mercy Health with the annual Honour Roll of Women.

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Mercy Community Services



McAuley – Women Supporting Women 2024

Please join McAuley for their annual fundraising lunch Friday 29 April at Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne. The event supports McAuley's Safe at Home Program, a response designed to enable women and children who have experienced family violence to remain safely in their homes.

If you can't attend the event and would like to make a donation, [click here.](#)

[Book tickets](#)



Waranara School joins MacKillop Family Services

MacKillop Family Services is proud to expand its Education offering into New South Wales, with Waranara School. Waranara school is a specialist assistance school established by Good Shepherd in 2015 to assist young people who are having difficulty staying engaged in education.

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Farewell to Trent Dean, Mercy Connect CEO

On 1 March, the team at Mercy Connect farewelled Trent Dean, who has led the organisation as CEO for the last four and half years. Trent's leadership has led to considerable expansion of the ministry and a strengthened focus on mission and the charism of Mercy. The Trustee Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions and the Board of Mercy Community Services Australia Ltd are grateful for Trent's dedicated service.

Caroline Cummins, who has held the role of Executive Leader Clinical Services since 2016, will take on the role of interim CEO at Mercy Connect.





Save the date

14-15 October 2024

2024 Mercy Ministry Companions Conference

Conference 2024
Theme: Companions at the Margins
Monday 14 - Tuesday 15 October
Catholic Leadership Centre
East Melbourne



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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