



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

April 2025



Vale Pope Francis: The life and death of each of us has its influence on others... (Romans 14:7)

In the days which have passed since we heard the news on Easter Monday of the death of Pope Francis, much has been said and written about his life, his influence within the Church and his influence globally. Alongside expressions of profound sadness, people from all walks of life have acknowledged, with deep gratitude, the witness of “the People’s Pope” over the past 12 years.

[Read more](#)



The Easter cry – Jesus is risen!

Margery Jackman, MMC Trustee Director

Recently, the great Easter cry of the church rang out: ***Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*** This ancient easter greeting is shared by many Christians including those within the Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and Protestant traditions. In the western Catholic church, we hear it on Easter Sunday morning and on each of the following seven days of the Easter Octave.

[Read more](#)



A message from Margery Jackman

Next month, I complete my term as a Trustee Director of MMC. It has been a wonderful four years and I thank the former and present Institute Leadership Teams for entrusting me with this responsibility. I also thank my fellow Trustee Directors, the staff of MMC and everyone I have encountered over the past four years, for your support and companionship. May God's richest blessings continue to encourage and support you all and may you 'turn around' often to recognise Jesus in all whom you encounter.

From the Formation Coordinator

Reconnecting with participants in the 2024 Middle Leaders' Program

From 14-15 May participants from Cohorts 1 and 2 in last year's inaugural MMC Program for Middle Leaders will participate in a one-hour ongoing formation seminar via Zoom. These sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to reconnect and share personal and professional outcomes from their engagement in the four-part Program and to identify ways of nurturing this emerging community of practice into the future.

It is hoped that some of our Middle Leaders will accept an invitation to contribute to future editions

of **Connections** by sharing a snapshot of their 'mini projects'. The development, implementation and evaluation of these projects provides an opportunity to integrate their learning into an aspect of their professional practice.



Mercy Leadership Program and Dublin Pilgrimage (MLPDP) 2025

From 27 April – 3 May, our 24 pilgrims will be in Dublin, engaged in Module 2 of the MLPDP. There is a great deal of excitement among the group and the facilitators, Sandra Harvey and Amanda Robertson. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they spend time at Mercy International Centre, the House of Mercy in which Catherine McAuley and the early Sisters of Mercy began their ministry. May they stay safe and come home re-energised by their experiences, with a renewed commitment to ministry leadership and governance as people of mercy and compassion.

Mercy Education

Sacred Heart College Celebrates 165 Years of Catholic Education

In late March, students, staff and families of Sacred Heart College Geelong, joined together to celebrate Foundation Day and 165 Years of Catholic Education in the Mercy Tradition. The day began with a beautiful mass led by Father Joseph Panackal and a moving address by Principal Anna Negro, after which attendees enjoyed a carnival in the grounds of the College.

[Read Principal Anna Negro's address](#)



Mercy Community Services



McAuley Fundraiser supports Safe at Home

Hundreds of guests joined McAuley's annual fundraising lunch on 4 April in Federation Square Melbourne, to support the ground-breaking work of Safe at Home, now officially underway in the Geelong and Barwon region. Guest speaker, Assistant Commissioner of Family Violence Lauren Callaway, reflected on the changes she has seen over recent decades as the leader of Victoria Police's family violence responses and shared her hopes for the future as we work together to end family and gender-based violence.



Megan Pearce joins Mercy Connect

Mercy Connect welcomes Megan Pearce as Chief Participant Experience and Practice Officer. Megan has extensive senior management experience and is deeply committed to improving participant outcomes and ensuring that participants' voices are heard and reflected in our services and approach.

Mercy Health



Mercy Health Masterclass meets regional demand

Mercy Health in Albury has hosted their annual Palliative Care Masterclass, where local health professionals were presented with the essential skills to address the region's growing demand for palliative care services.

[Read more](#)

Community News



50th anniversary of Operation Babylift tragedy

Adelaide's Sisters of Mercy have commemorated the 50th anniversary of the deaths of two former sisters, Margaret Moses and Rosemary Taylor, who died while evacuating babies and adults during the fall of Saigon.

Save the Date

**4pm, Monday 15 Sept -
5pm, Tuesday 16 Sept**

2025 MMC Conference

Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne

The format will be similar to 2024, exploring in more depth our theme of *'Extending Horizons'*. We are very pleased that Angela Scaffidi has accepted the invitation to facilitate our time together.

Further details about the Conference Program and Registration process will be sent to ministries once they are confirmed.

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

In the spirit of reconciliation, Mercy Ministry Companions acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the country where we live and work today.

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