



A time for every purpose under heaven ... steps in the journey towards

# Mercy Ministry Companions

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God  
and the Word was God ... (Gospel of John 1: 1)

4.5 billion years ago	Formation of our solar system ...
60,000+ years ago	Indigenous peoples have been living on the lands now known as Australia
c20 BCE	Birth of Mary, mother of Jesus
c4 BCE	Birth of Jesus of Nazareth
1788	First European settlement in Australia
1802	Edmund Rice founds the Institute of Christian Brothers in Ireland
1817	Marcellin Champagnat founds the Marist Brothers in France
1827	First House of Mercy established by Catherine McAuley at Baggot Street, Dublin
1831	Catherine McAuley founds the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland
1835	Mary Euphrasia Pelletier founds the Good Shepherd Sisters in France; first Sisters came to Melbourne VIC in 1863
1846	Ursula Frayne and her six companions arrive in Fremantle, the first Sisters of Mercy to come to Australia, establish Mercedes College, Perth WA
1850	Cecilia Maher and her companions arrive in Auckland; the first women religious in New Zealand
1853	First Parish Priest, Dean Thomas Slattery, came to live in Warrnambool VIC





1854	St Vincent's Boys' Orphanage VIC (moved to South Melbourne in 1857)
1857	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ursula Frayne and 3 companions arrive in Melbourne, establish Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy VIC</li><li>• St Augustine's Orphanage, Geelong VIC (conducted by Christian Brothers from 1858)</li></ul>
1860	Sacred Heart College, Geelong VIC
1861	St Vincent's Girls' Orphanage, South Melbourne VIC (renamed in 1962)
1866	Mary MacKillop and Julian Tennison Woods found the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Penola SA
1868	Sisters of Mercy, Albury NSW
1872	Sisters of Mercy arrive in Warrnambool, establish St Ann's College, later re-named Emmanuel College VIC
1874	Diocese of Sandhurst founded from Diocese of Melbourne VIC
1875	Sisters of Mercy, Singleton NSW
1876	Sisters of Mercy arrive in Bendigo, establish St Mary's College, now Catherine McAuley College VIC
1880	Sisters of Mercy arrive in Adelaide, establish St Aloysius College SA
1882	St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona NSW
1884	Sisters of Mercy, Grafton NSW





1887	St Aloysius College, North Melbourne VIC
1888	St Joseph's Home for Boys, South Melbourne VIC (re-located to Surrey Hills in 1890)
1889	Arnold Janssen SVD, Helena Stollenwerk and Hendrina Stenmanns founded the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in the Netherlands; in 1944 the first group came to Brisbane QLD
1896	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sisters of Mercy, West Perth WA</li><li>• Mt Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale VIC</li></ul>
1901	St Joseph's Foundling Home, Broadmeadows VIC (name changed to St Joseph's Babies' Home in 1967 and then became part of St Joseph's Babies and Family Service in 1985)
1902	St Joseph's Receiving Home, Carlton VIC (transferred to Sisters of St Joseph in 1905)
1906	St Joseph's College, Mildura VIC
1910	Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg VIC
1912	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St Catherine's Girls' Orphanage, Geelong VIC</li><li>• St Joseph's Orphanage, Cowper NSW</li></ul>
1919	Knights of the Southern Cross founded in Sydney NSW (first meeting of the Order of KSC held in Victoria in 1922)
1920	St Benedict's Private Hospital established by the Sisters of Mercy in Malvern VIC
1922	St Anthony's Home, Kew VIC (re-located to Footscray in the 1970s)
1929	St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie WA





1930	Maude O'Connell founds the Family Care Sisters (Grey Sisters) in Daylesford VIC
1934	Mercy Private Hospital, East Melbourne VIC
1938	Santa Maria College, Attadale WA
1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Hospital, Young NSW</li><li>• Mercy Hospital, Albury NSW (new facility opened in 1957)</li></ul>
1949	Mother and Child Care Centre, Canterbury, established by Family Care Sisters VIC (renamed O'Connell Family Centre in 1990; formally gifted to Mercy Health and Aged Care in 2006)
1962	St Vincent de Paul's Children's Home VIC (relocated to Black Rock in 1966)
1969	Mercy Nursing Home, Singleton NSW
1971	Mercy Maternity Hospital, East Melbourne VIC (renamed Mercy Hospital for Women in 1991 and relocated to Heidelberg in 2005)
1975	Mercy Family Care Centre, North Geelong VIC (following closure of St Catherine's in Highton)
1976	Mercy Services, Newcastle NSW
1982	Mercy Hospice, Sunshine VIC
1984	New Nursing Home built in Singleton NSW (became Mercy Aged Care Services Singleton in 2005)
1986	Regina Coeli, Flemington VIC





1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Original Mercy Care Service, North Melbourne VIC; later renamed McAuley Care</li><li>• St Augustine's Orphanage Geelong renamed St Augustine's Adolescent and Family Services VIC</li></ul>
1992	Mercy International Association (MIA) established
1993	Mackillop Rural Community Services, Balranald NSW
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-dedication of House of Mercy property at Baggot Street in Dublin as Mercy International Centre (MIC)</li><li>• Werribee Mercy Hospital VIC</li></ul>
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Centre, Lavington NSW (renamed Mercy Connect in 2016)</li><li>• Mercy Health and Aged Care formed</li></ul>
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Secondary Education Inc formed</li><li>• MacKillop Family Services formed (bringing together 7 agencies)</li><li>• Mercy Health assumes responsibility for its first Aged Care homes: Rice Village, Geelong, and Bethlehem Home for the Aged, Bendigo VIC</li></ul>
1999	Mercy Global Concern established (renamed Mercy Global Action in 2011)
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Community Care Services in Newcastle NSW joins with McAuley Alcohol and other Drug Programs to become Mercy Community Services. (renamed Mercy Services in 2012)</li><li>• Mercy Works established as the development arm of the Sisters of Mercy in Australia and Papua New Guinea</li></ul>
2001	Expanded Mercy Care services, Melbourne's west VIC
2002	MercyCare established by the Sisters of Mercy as a public juridic person (PJP) in Perth, WA
2005	Mercy Aged Care Services NSW (Singleton)





2006/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sisters of Mercy Goulburn Congregation gift their health services in Albury and Young NSW to Mercy Health and Aged Care</li><li>• Mercy Place Shepparton, Fernhill and Wyndham VIC become part of Mercy Health</li></ul>
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Partners established by the Sisters of Mercy in QLD as a pontifical and ministerial PJP</li><li>• McAuley Community Services for Women formed (bringing together Regina Coeli and McAuley Care)</li><li>• Mercy Health and Aged Care is renamed Mercy Health</li></ul>
2009	Mercy Health Foundation established
2009/10	Mercy Place East Melbourne, Parkville and Warrnambool established VIC
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Secondary Education Inc becomes Mercy Education Ltd</li><li>• St Augustine's and St Helen's specialist schools in Geelong VIC amalgamate to become MacKillop Specialist School</li><li>• Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) established on 12 December</li></ul>
2013	MacKillop begins delivering Out of Home Care services in WA
2014	Mercyville, Villa Maria and Edgewater Mercy hostels, Mercy Place Lathlain, Mandurah and Mont Clare in WA become part of Mercy Health
2015	Mercy Place Abbotsford and Boronia VIC; Mercy Place Westcourt and Woree and Coral Sea Gardens, Cairns, QLD become part of Mercy Health
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mercy Connect becomes the new name for Mercy Centre Lavington NSW</li><li>• Mercy Health welcomes Woods Point Aged Care (Yarrawonga) and Myrtleford Lodge as part of Mercy Aged Care Mercy Health welcomes Woods Point Aged Care (Yarrawonga) and Myrtleford Lodge as part of Mercy Aged Care</li><li>• Mercy Services Home Care and Transport services transitions to Mercy Health 2017 – Cara Inc merges with MacKillop Family Services VIC; MacKillop Rural Community Services and Good Grief (established by Sisters of St Joseph in the mid-1990s in NSW) join MacKillop Family Services</li></ul>
2018	MacKillop Family Services second specialist school opens in Maidstone VIC; Gidgee Pre-school opens in the Weilmoringle community in far-west NSW





2020	Mercy Global Action establishes the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MacKillop commences Family Support Services in Larrakia Country NT collaborating with Danila Dilba Health</li><li>• Petition to Rome to establish Whānau Mercy Ministries as a PJP in Aotearoa New Zealand</li><li>• Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) established as a PJP on 3 December</li><li>• Mercy Community Services Australia (MCSAL) established in December</li></ul>
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening of Waratah Place and Acacia House, Albury NSW, April/May, Mercy Connect</li><li>• MMC's first Annual Ministry Conference in October</li><li>• Opening of Heywood House, long-term crisis accommodation, Melbourne, October 27, McAuley</li><li>• First anniversary of Mercy Ministry Companions on 3 December</li></ul>
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening of Wilma's Place, long-term accommodation for women, Melbourne, March 3, McAuley</li><li>• MacKillop Family Services open an office in Belconnen and 14 residential care homes, ACT, April 1</li><li>• Whanau Mercy Ministries, Aotearoa New Zealand, officially commences as an MPJP, April</li><li>• Opening of Avondale Place, Henty NSW, July, Mercy Connect (involvement ceased in May 2024)</li><li>• Opening of Basil House, Albury NSW, July, Mercy Connect</li><li>• MacKillop Family Services moves to new office site in Geelong, July</li><li>• Mercy Ministry Companions sends first Annual Report to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Rome, July.</li><li>• Opening of Grevillia Place, Orange, NSW, October, Mercy Connect</li><li>• Official opening of Our Lady of Mercy Place, Harris Park, NSW, October (Mercy Health, operator)</li><li>• McAuley Community Services for Women becomes part of MacKillop Family Services, October 1</li><li>• Opening of Kite Street, Cowra NSW in December, Mercy Connect</li></ul>
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MacKillop Family Services opens an office in Maitland and begins operating Therapeutic Residential Care in Newcastle, NSW, April 2024</li></ul>
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening of Mercy Place Aged Care Mentone, Vic</li><li>• Mercy Health welcomes Woods Point Aged Care (Yarrawonga) and Myrtleford Lodge as part of Mercy Aged Care</li><li>• Mercy Services Home Care and Transport services transitions to Mercy Health</li><li>• MacKillop opens its first school in NSW in Annandale Sydney: MacKillop Education Waranara,</li></ul>

*Our story continues to unfold...*