



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

August 2024



Reflection: Trusteeship, a calling

Gabrielle McMullen AM, Trustee Director

On 3 December 2021, Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) came into existence as the entity holding governance responsibility for ministries previously governed by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. The community service, education and health and aged care ministries in which you are involved are an important part of the Church's mission in Australia.

Significantly, the second half of the twentieth century brought a new understanding of co-responsibility for the mission of the Church. Not only are bishops, priests and religious called to ministry in the Church, but all its members. This development has seen the emergence of new Church agencies, like Mercy Ministry Companions, which are under lay leadership. In Church law, these are titled ministerial public juridic persons (MPJPs) and their leaders are titled canonical stewards or trustees.

[Read more](#)

Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Mary MacKillop was a young woman with a dream to make a difference in our world. Her dream encompassed opening simple schools where there was no class distinction, offering refuge for the most neglected, and bringing practical help to families in need. She was a passionate woman

whose youthful spirit has touched the heart and soul of Australian people for over 170 years. Her spirit and values continue to inspire people today to make a difference, bringing the message of God's love to all whom she encountered. Mary MacKillop was a very human woman who lived an extraordinary life. She was a woman who dared to love with confidence and courage.

On 8 August we celebrated Mary MacKillop's Feast Day across Australia. The day was an opportunity to reflect on a life firmly anchored in something every human heart longs for: an inner peace that comes from a deep sense of humility, compassion, and dignity.



Watch Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph speak about Mary MacKillop's Feast Day.

Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)

Mercy Ministry Companions Anglesea retreat

The Trustee Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions held their annual retreat in Anglesea in August, facilitated by Father Ed Nixon CSsR.

Following the retreat, the Trustee Directors visited a number of ministry sites in the Geelong region including the MacKillop education campus in Whittington, Sacred Heart College Geelong, the MacKillop office in Geelong and finally the Werribee hospital campus. The Trustee Directors are always grateful for the opportunity to spend time at ministry sites and were overwhelmed by the warm welcome they received at each of the visits.



Review of Orientation to Mercy 7 Module Program

The Orientation to Mercy Program has been updated annually over the past three years, with a major review being undertaken in September – October this year. An invitation is issued to any MMC colleagues who would like to contribute to the Review to register for a Zoom consultation scheduled for Monday, 16 September from 11.30am-12.30pm AEST. A link to the 7 Modules is included here <https://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/orientation-to-mercy-modules/>.

The consultation will focus on:

The relevance of the current content in each Module

The appropriateness of existing reflective processes and activities in each Module
Suggestions for improving or expanding the 7 Module Program
Feedback on the Accreditation processes for educators completing the Modules.

If you wish to attend the Zoom session, please [REGISTER HERE](#)

Your participation in the Review is encouraged, especially if you have completed the Program, or mentored your colleagues while they undertook the Modules. For further information about the Review, please contact [Annette Schneider rsm, MMC Formation Coordinator](#).

Mercy Education



Congratulations to Louisa Rennie, new CEO of Mercy Education

On Tuesday 20 August, Louisa Rennie was commissioned as the new Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Education at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Louisa accepted this ministry of leadership and committed to serving the community of Mercy Education with compassion, courage, respect, hospitality, justice and service.

Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Martin Ashe DD, Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region, Archdiocese of Melbourne, supported by Fr Michael Buck, Master of Ceremonies and Fr Tien Tran. A large congregation included Sisters of Mercy, Trustee Directors and staff of Mercy Ministry Companions,

members of the Mercy Education Board, College Advisory Council Members and staff of the Mercy Education National office. Principals, staff and students represented each of the 13 Mercy Education Colleges. A combined choir of students from St Aloysius College North Melbourne and Academy of Mary Immaculate Fitzroy, were joined by a string ensemble from Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg.



Sacred Heart Kyneton celebrates 150 years

Congratulations to Sacred Heart College in Kyneton, who at the end of July, celebrated 135 years as a college community. The college has seen significant change since its inaugural enrolment of 28 students in 1889, now boasting a student population of 850. The special occasion was marked with a celebratory prayer for staff and students.



St Aloysius awarded \$6m funding grant

Louisa Rennie, CEO of Mercy Education and Georgina Smith, Chair of the Board of Mercy Education Limited are thrilled to announce that St Aloysius College North Melbourne has been awarded a \$6 million grant from the Victorian Government Capital Funding Program for Non-Government Schools for the construction of a new multi-storey senior years campus. Congratulations to principal Mary Farah and the team at St Aloysius College.

Thank You
for caring!



Celebrating aged care employees

On 7 August Mercy Health celebrated Aged Care Employee Day, honouring the unwavering commitment and exceptional care provided by the 370,000+ aged and community care staff across the sector who provide vital support to over 1.5 million older and ageing Australians.

Mercy Community Services



Mercy Services Dreaming

Mercy Services has continued its dedication to honouring local First Nations people unveiling "Mercy Services Dreaming," a new artwork created by Maree Simon-Ahoy. The artwork is a symbolic representation of Mercy Service's connection with the Hunter region and its people.

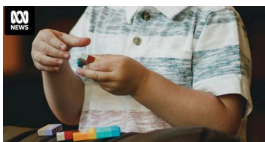


Melbourne Airport sleep out for McAuley

McAuley in partnership with NFP Juno and Melbourne Airport, are hosting the Car Park Sleep Out on Thursday 5 September. By spending one night in your car, you can help raise vital funds for people experiencing homelessness or who at risk of becoming homeless after violence.

All proceeds will go to McAuley and Juno, supporting women and non-binary people escaping violence in the North and West of Melbourne.

[Register or donate](#)



MacKillop's Foster Families recognised

With the recent conclusion of Foster Care Week in Western Australia (31 July to 6 August), two MacKillop foster carers have been featured by ABC news talking about their fostering experience. Sadly, the number of foster carers is steadily declining while the number of children in care has doubled over the last two decades.

[Read more](#)



Mercy Connect's new partnership

Mercy Connect is excited to announce a partnership with Wodonga TAFE, offering over 30 employees the opportunity to complete a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management. This partnership will equip current and emerging leaders with the essential skills and knowledge to inspire team performance, lead with confidence, manage effectively, and contribute meaningfully to the organisation's overall success.

Save the date

Mon 16 September

11.30am-12.30pm AEST

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Review of Orientation to Mercy 7 Module Program
via Zoom**

4.45pm Mon 14 October -

5.00pm Tues 15 October

**2024 Mercy Ministry Companions Conference: Expanding
Horizons**

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.

Copyright © 2024 Mercy Ministry Companions, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).