



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

March 2025



Reflecting on the journey

Tony Goad, MMC Trustee Director

As Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) progresses into its fourth year as a Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP), it is responsible for the stewardship and overarching governance of the ministries (Mercy Health Australia, Mercy Education and Mercy Community Services Australia). As a Trustee, I find myself reflecting on the journey thus far, with particular focus on the formation of the ministries by the Sisters of Mercy, referencing the charism, mission and values passed down from Catherine and the early Sisters from Baggot Street in Dublin.

[Read more](#)

Mercy Education

MMC joins celebrations of the New School Year

In February, Trustee Director Gabrielle McMullen AM joined Sisters of Mercy, students and families at celebrations of the new school year at two Victorian Colleges: Sacred Heart College, Geelong and St Aloysius College, North Melbourne.



Sacred Heart College – Annual Maguire Celebration

The annual Maguire Celebration holds a special place in the life of Sacred Heart College in Geelong – it is named for the founder of the College, Mother Xavier Maguire rsm. As the College community comes together to launch the new academic year, the Maguire Celebration is also an occasion to honour the achievements of the previous year's students.



St Aloysius College – Opening School Year Mass

Fourteen buses transferred the St Aloysius College community from North Melbourne to St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne on Friday, 28 February for the College's Opening School Year Mass. The chief celebrant was Bishop Martin Ashe with College Chaplain, Fr Thang Vu, his concelebrant.

[Read more](#)



Primary School education reaches new heights

St Aloysius College in Adelaide has announced a new \$34 million home for its primary school in the heart of the city, complete with a rooftop play space and garden.

[Read more](#)

Mercy Health



Mercy Health celebrates International Women's Day

Ahead of International Women's Day, held on 8 March this year, Mercy Health celebrated with a series of events to celebrate, learn and recognise women. This included powerful conversations, masterclasses, and a special Honour Roll of women across multiple sites.

[Read more](#)



Trustee Directors visit Harris Park

The Trustee Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions experienced true Mercy hospitality when they visited Our Lady Mercy Place, Harris Park in March. Delivering on a long held vision by the local Maronite Catholic community to deliver better living for people as they age, the Harris Park facility brings its healthy ageing approach to the local community.

[Mercy Community Services](#)



McAuley launches Victorian-first family violence trial

Safe at Home - a Victorian-first trial response to family violence that aims to keep women and children safe at home while preventing homelessness - was launched in Geelong on 14 March by the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, The Hon. Natalie Hutchins.

[Read more](#)



Mercy Connect - Improving Virtual Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities

In March, Mercy Connect, along with people with intellectual disabilities, carers, family members and clinicians, was invited to participate in a co-design workshop to Help Make Virtual Care Better for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

[Read more](#)



MacKillop Education Waranara School officially opens in NSW

In late February, MacKillop was thrilled to launch the official opening of MacKillop Education Waranara School in Sydney. The fourth MacKillop Education school to open, and the first in NSW, the Waranara School was previously located in Merrickville and operated by Good Sheppard.

[Read more](#)

Mercy International Association



Episode Two of MIA's new podcast is now live

Mercy Echoes is a brand new podcast from Mercy International Association. Presented by Brenda Drumm, MIA's Head of Communications, Mercy Echoes creates a living archive of Mercy voices that will echo from the past and present into the future.

In episode two, we hear from Sr. Berneice Loch rsm from Australia about her life and ministry and some of her memories of her time as CEO of Mercy International Association.

[Listen now](#)

From the MMC Formation Coordinator

Accreditation of Orientation to Mercy Modules for 2025

We are pleased to advise that the *Orientation to Mercy* 8 Module Program has been accredited by:

1. CESA (as a System Accredited Module, with the option available to complete a 1500-word assignment and apply for a \$1,500 grant from CESA) and
2. MACS, for 6 hours. The Reference number for an application for Accreditation to MACS is REC 020852.

Application for accreditation of *Orientation to Mercy* by CEWA is still in process.

[Access the 8 Module Program and the Participant Completion Sheet](#)

New 1-page Resource for ongoing formation in Mercy

In response to requests for information about Catherine McAuley and Mercy spirituality, we have developed a new Resource now available on the MMC website. The Resource would be helpful for ministry staff planning their ongoing formation individually or as part of a small group.

The Quick Guide to Mercy resources includes links to:

- Information about the Orientation to Mercy Modules
- Mercy Heritage and Spirituality
- Mercy's companion values
- Four books focusing on Catherine McAuley and the ongoing Mercy story.

'Honouring the Soul'

40 day sabbatical



Join the 2025 Sabbatical Program

This year's Sabbatical Program "*Honouring the Soul: Deepening Our Encounters With God, Self, Others and Creation*" will be held at Santa Casa Conference Centre, in Queenscliff, Victoria.

Sabbatical organiser, Cathy Solano rsm, has provided a flyer which you are welcome to share with your ministry colleagues, especially those considering some long service leave.

The inaugural 40-day program in 2024 was very well-received and there are places still available in the 2025 program.

[Find out more](#)

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.**

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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