



MERCY
PARTNERS

NEWS

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Luke 24:5

On arriving at Jesus' tomb in the pre-dawn light of Sunday morning one can only imagine the shock, fright and confusion of the women. They had come with spices for anointing but instead found the stone rolled away, the tomb empty. The women were first to hear the words of resurrection, He is risen! You too are called to live the resurrection in our time, in your place. As Pope John Paul II (1986) reminded us, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." We wish you all a blessed Easter!

RISEN

**If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger here.
Here is only emptiness,
a hollow, a husk
where a blessing
used to be.
This blessing was not
content in its confinement.
It could not abide its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench of death.
So if it is a blessing you seek,
open your own mouth.
Fill your lungs with the air
this new morning brings
and then release it with a cry.
Hear how the blessing breaks
forth in your own voice,
how your own lips form
every word you never
dreamed to say.
See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to repeat it,
but louder, how it draws you,
pulls you, sends you
to proclaim its only word:
Risen.
Risen.
Risen.**

Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we walk, live and work. We recognise their living culture and their unique role in the life of this area. We pay tribute to all of those who have nurtured this country over many thousands of years, deriving spiritual and physical needs from the seas, forests, soil, rivers, lakes and streams. We join with First Nations people in honouring this land as sacred. We welcome the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support an Indigenous voice to parliament, enshrined in the Australian Constitution.



OLMC TRANSFER RITUAL

On Tuesday 18th October 2021 Mercy Partners welcomed Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta into the Mercy Partners family. Due to Covid restrictions the ritual of transfer was delayed until Sunday 13 March 2022.

The Transfer of Governance Ceremony of Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta from Canonical Sponsorship of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta to Mercy Partners was celebrated with Sisters of Mercy, many of them former students, teachers and leaders, current board, staff and students, the Mercy Partners Council and many friends in mercy.

As Mary-Louise Petro rsm, Congregation Leader, Sister of Mercy Parramatta said, "Today is all about journey. It is about the whole thread from the journey that began with Catherine McAuley, right through the ages and continuing through to today."

Those in attendance gathered on OLMC ground, a place of Mercy sacred to countless generations of the Darug people and blessed by the gifts of those who have lived, worked and learnt there. Aunty Julie Webb welcomed all to Country and blessed the ground painting by Ngemba artist, Danny Eastwood depicting the ongoing connection of the Darug people and the contribution of the women religious who have lived and worked at OLMC.

This traditional Aboriginal artwork aptly name, The Journey, marked the beginning of the transfer ceremony. The procession continued carrying Parramatta River water and candles to the 'Come, Sit Awhile' Sculpture of Catherine McAuley. Here the story of Catherine McAuley was retold, a candle gifted to

the Parramatta Sisters by the Callan Community was lit and small rocks painted by OLMC students were distributed to the Sisters of Mercy in attendance.

After adding water from the 'Rill' (a small watercourse in the back garden of Mercy International Centre) to the Parramatta River water, it was carried with the Callan candle to the Mother Mary Clare Dunphy Memorial Chapel. Here the founding story of the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy was shared. Mary Louise Petro also shared the journey to the transfer of ownership to Mercy Partners, "We have come to this wonderful place, this new life for OLMC with Mercy Partners and we are delighted! We can sing that our souls in fact are joyful. Even though we know we have tears of sadness, and we all recognise those, it is a wonderful space to be, to be so sure that OLMC has found the best home. A home that is welcoming of us as well and a realisation we are giving over nothing except having to do the work and we are now the grandmothers who enjoy OLMC as it journeys into the future."

The final element of the ritual was a procession to the Mercy Tree where water from the Brisbane River joined the blended waters from the Parramatta River and 'The Rill', Mercy International, Dublin and the formal transfer proceedings began.

In her address, Kerrie Walshaw, OLMC Board Chair observed, "Today, we are sharing in a part of OLMC's rich journey.

"Our short walk through the college and convent grounds have told the stories of the paths we have travelled.

"As you have heard already, in 1889 OLMC was founded by our brave sisters who travelled from Callan



Ireland. Since that time for 133 years OLMC has been on its own journey.

“Now in 2022 we are reaching another major milestone with the canonical sponsorship of OLMC transferring from our beloved Sisters to Mercy Partners.”

In her address, Ricki Jeffery, Chairperson, Mercy Partners Council, noted, “It has been a privilege to hear the story of this sacred place, of this school and of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy here in Parramatta, enacted through the words, prayers, song and actions of this ritual.”

“It is humbling in so many ways to be stepping onto such a well-worn path of mercy, to be receiving in trust this college which has been such an important ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, to be part of the ‘Muru Ba’ – the future pathway.”

The final ritual included the pouring of the onto the Mercy Tree by Lucie Farrugia (Principal OLMC), Maria Lawton rsm (Congregation Vicar, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta), and Kieran McCarthy (Deputy Chair and Company Secretary, Mercy Partners).

Congregation Leader, Mary Louise Petro rsm, concluded the official proceedings with the presentation of hand carved walnut bowls to the College, the congregation and Mercy partners. The walnut tree is a rich symbol from the life of Catherine McAuley and the bowls are a wonderful link between all stages of the journey.

As Mary Louise Petro rsm said, “We decided what would be a nice thing to do was to have something that came from the OLMC walnut tree and the thread that went all the way back to Catherine McAuley sitting beneath the walnut tree and discerning her future and for the future of those who were poor and vulnerable.”



From L-R: Matthew Esterman, Louise Millar, Ann-Marie Herd, Gabby Scanlon, Marie Wood, Lucie Farrugia, Michael Cuzic, Margaret Jones rsm, Maria Lawton rsm, Mary Louise Petro rsm, Margaret Sheppard rsm, Patricia Bolster rsm, Caroline Thompson, Ricki Jeffery, John Leahy, Kerrie Walshaw, Margaret Endicott rsm, Margery Jackman

AMPJP INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mercy Partners Chair Dr Ricki Jeffery spoke at the Association of Ministerial PJP's International Women's Day as a panel member on the webinar.

Her address interrogated the need for women to claim ecclesial leadership in Church ministries. "I found it interesting that this is a topic at all, that is the specifying of women in PJP Governance." Leaders in Governance, like anyone making a valuable contribution to society, should be celebrated as such; people who go out of their way to make an impact. No gender labels. No labels whatsoever.

Ricki commented, "To my cynical self it suggests that there has not been (and in some cases continues not to be) a valuing of the role of women in this space - and that women are latecomers to governance roles, maybe even grudging inclusions.

"However, I believe this is not the case - many of the ministries of Mercy Partners for instance were founded, led and staffed by women religious and later lay leaders who have taken up ministry leadership - canonical and civil - and have been in the forefront of canonical governance as stewards, trustees and ecclesial leaders in mission and formation."

As the Mercy Partners Theological Framework asserts:

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have gathered in communities of different kinds, expressing their faith in liturgy and sacrament, in friendship and service, whether in households, hospitals, prisons, schools or church buildings. Drawing on the Gospel for inspiration, these communities still today express the presence of Jesus in the world in unique ways. (Mercy Partners Theological Framework, p3)

Ricki went on to say, "Recognising the place of women (and men) in the Church, in the multitude of places where faith has led to action for those made poor, those marginalised, those in need of support, has been to acknowledge that mission is an equal opportunity 'space'.

"What's often missing is the courage of women to stand up and embrace ecclesial leadership - to see themselves as equals at all levels of leadership and

governance - to claim for themselves the title 'ecclesial leader', without bowing before male leadership or being pushed or ignored into voicelessness.

Even though women have been doing the job (mission) and building highly successful ministries in health, education, family services, etc they are often operating in a 'gender unfriendly' environment:

- Clericalism in the Church has often not recognised either the gifts or the achievements of women
- Corporate cultures privilege power politics, boy's clubs, and often misogynistic practices
- Social constraints have consigned women's work to the home
- There has been a reluctance to honour those approaches to leadership and governance which are deemed feminine - flexibility, collaboration, empowerment, consensus thinking. These were the attributes of women like Nano Nagle and Catherine McAuley who stood up to bullying by Church leaders who wanted to control their work.

Sr Raphael Consedine writes of Nano Nagle (founder of the Presentation Sisters):

With the creative energy of the Spirit in their hearts, they went into situations of deep material and spiritual poverty in and beyond Ireland and transformed them into situations of hope... The pioneering spirit was manifest not only in going to new places but being ready to attempt new forms of service, new methods in established works. The readiness to push against accepted boundaries for the sake of service to people has continued to express itself in new situations, in changing cultures and with changing needs. (Consedine. 1988. P.97).

"In truth," Ricki concluded, "women have often been socialised into believing that they don't have a role at certain levels of Church leadership and it suits some male leaders to reinforce this in direct and sometimes more subtle and indirect ways. Today, International Womens' Day is a day to celebrate the leadership of women in the Church and society more broadly, and to encourage all women to embrace leadership, to speak up for those who are vulnerable and to honour the legacy of the strong women who have founded our ministries.

CHANGING CLIMATES

Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow

UN
WOMEN
AUSTRALIA
EVERY. DAY. WOMEN.

BOARD CHAIRS' FORUM

Mercy Partners Council, Executives and Ministry Board Chairs gathered at the Novotel Brisbane South Bank on 9 March for the 2022 Board Chairs' Forum. The afternoon was an opportunity for Mercy Partners to officially welcome new ministries – Holy Cross Services (July 2021) and Our Lady of Mercy College Paramatta (October 2021). Ricki Jeffery (Chair of Mercy Partners) and John Leahy (CEO) shared updates and Caroline (Director of Mission) outlined formation opportunities and the 2022 resources and events. Chris Townend announced the Nudgee Trust Grants round 2022. The Chairs then had an opportunity for an open discussion. The forum concluded with the launch of the NEW Mercy Partners website.

Please visit: www.mercypartners.org.au



ABOUT GOVERNANCE HERITAGE MINISTRIES FORMATION NEWS AND EVENTS SHOP

CONTACT

Welcome to Mercy Partners

Mercy Partners is a Public Juridic Person (PJP) in the Catholic Church, sponsoring ministries entrusted to our care by their founding religious congregations.

ABOUT US



COMPASSION
RESPECT
JUSTICE
HOPE

Our mission is to contribute to the emergence of a world where the healing, liberating and life-giving mercy of God is experienced.

We express our mission by safeguarding the ministries entrusted to our care, helping them to function effectively in accordance with their founding charism.



Our Mission

Mercy Partners mission statement is realised through governance, oversight, leadership support and formation for ministry leaders. We honour the living spirit and legacy of our charisms, and seek to ensure that each charism is preserved, nurtured and reimagined into the future.

OUR MISSION



Our Ministries

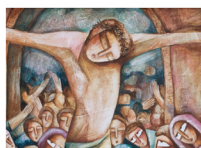
Mercy Partners is privileged to sponsor and govern ministries in education, health, aged care, community, family and disability services and commercial services.

Each ministry's mission is outwardly focused, dynamic and relational. Ministry leaders are responsible for ensuring the ministry is fully participating in God's presence in the world, especially to those who are vulnerable or marginalised.

OUR MINISTRIES

News and Events

BROWSE ALL



03 APR 2022
Lenten Moment – Fifth Sunday of Lent – 2022

Jesus said: "...the mustard seed... is the smallest of all the seeds..." Matthew 13:32

READ MORE



13 MAR 2022
Becoming one with you and one with us

On Tuesday 18th October 2021 Mercy Partners welcomed Our Lady of Mercy College Paramatta into the Mercy Partners family. Due to Covid...

READ MORE



0302 102
The Call to Mission

We can source rich guidance on what mission agency looks like from the scriptures and also from the lives of great leaders like our own...

READ MORE

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we walk, live and work. We recognise their living culture and their unique role in the life of the areas in which Mercy Partners ministries are located. We pay tribute to all of those who have nurtured this country over many thousands of years, deriving spiritual and physical needs from the seas, forests, soil, rivers, lakes and streams. We join with our First Nations people in honouring this land as sacred. We welcome the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support an indigenous voice to parliament, enshrined in the Australian Constitution.



welcome

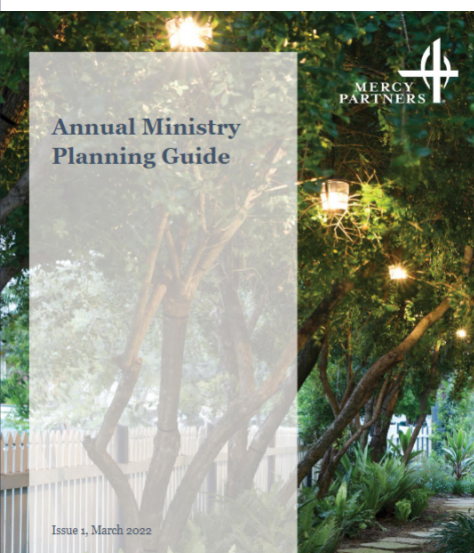
Mercy Community (SEQ) and Mercy Health and Aged Care Central Qld - Dr Christine Foley has joined the board of directors.

St Ursula's College - Ms Julie Payne has joined the board of directors.



Ms Delys Dunbar thank you for your service to the board of Mercy Community Services North Qld.

Mr Thalep Ahmat thank you for your service to the board of St Ursula's College.



The Annual Ministry guide was discussed and distributed at the Board Chairs' Forum. For further information contact Mercy Partners Office on 3267 5840.

COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE

MERCY PARTNERS FORMATION

Mercy Partners Formation provides service for

- ▶ Mercy Partners Council and Committees
- ▶ Religious from our foundation congregations
- ▶ Leaders of ministries — directors, executives, key staff and emerging leaders
- ▶ Leaders from cross-sector ministries
- ▶ Ministries seeking governance support

In 2022, Mercy Partners Formation has spent an hour each month with the leadership team of Holy Cross Services (HCS) to offer a formation session based on Catholic Social Teaching. By working together to tailor formation opportunities the HCS leaders are now undertaking formation at the start of each team meeting. This program is working very well for Holy Cross Services.



WHAT WILL WORK FOR YOUR MINISTRY?

Please contact us to discuss the possibilities.

Dr Caroline Thompson - Director of Formation
caroline.thompson@mercypartners.org.au

Mrs Libby Blom - Formation Manager
libby.blom@mercypartners.org.au

For more information visit

www.mercypartners.org.au/formation/

MISSION LEADERSHIP IN THE FUTURE

Mercy Partners recognises that the authentic Catholic identity of Catholic ministries is premised on strong and strategic formation for mission. To this end Mercy Partners are working with other agencies to examine options for developing mission leaders into the future. This role, previously supported by Church agencies and religious congregations, who invested heavily in formation, now falls to lay organisations such as Public Juridic Persons.

Mercy Partners will continue to engage in sector-wide conversations and strategic planning to realise a Formation Institute, supported and funded by Catholic agencies. This initiative will allow our Catholic ministries to build capacity and support mission leadership into the future. This initiative calls for genuine collaboration between MPJPs, other Church agencies and the wider Catholic community.



*Because we are partners,
our relationships rely more
on the formative value of
friendship and collective
vision than on inflexible
institutional structures.*

Mercy Partners
Theological Framework, p3

PASTORAL CARE GATHERING

Mercy Partners Formation and Ministry Pastoral Care leaders gathered at Mater Newstead on Thursday 24 March. We welcomed many new Pastoral Care Leaders to the gathering and spent time discussing: "What does Pastoral Care look like in a Mercy Partners ministry?" The discussions revealed many insights, approaches and possibilities. Michael Azzopardi from Mercy Community also shared a project he is currently working on in the Pastoral Care space and we can't wait to hear how it evolves and develops into the future.



PASTORAL CARE AND MISSION LEADERS' GATHERING

Mercy Partners Formation and Ministry Mission and Pastoral Care leaders gathered at the Mater Newstead auditorium on Friday 25 March. The theme of the day was: *Charism – preserving, nurturing, and reimagining*. We shared a sneak peak of the new resources coming soon from Mercy Partners Formation. The last session of the day was devoted to sharing in like ministry groups. The day ended with ministries receiving a gift from Mercy Partners – a print of the founders Catherine McAuley, Nano Nagle and St Francis of Assisi by artist Jen Norton to be hung at each ministry. The Pastoral Care and Mission leaders thanked Caroline and Libby with a beautifully sung blessing.



*Living out
the mission
of Mercy
Partners
entails
collaborating
with others at
every turn*



Mercy Partners
Theological Framework,
p21

*Just as the founders of religious congregations
responded to the needs of their times with love,
respect, compassion and mercy, so too are we
called in our age to respond.*

Mercy Partners
Theological Framework, p15

WHAT DOES MISSION MEAN TO ME?



“ Mission for me is about a constant striving to be open and willing to cooperate with God's invitation or call to me to be a conduit or a channel of God's love in the world. It's a constant striving because I'm not perfect, I'm a flawed human being and there's going to be times when I don't live up to the ideals to which I aspire but that doesn't mean you don't keep trying.”

Sr Maria Lawton RSM
Sisters of Mercy Parramatta



“ Mission is God's mission, and we are called, we are invited to be a co-worker, someone who is sent into the world to be the presence of the living God and carry out God's mission. Mission therefore gifts us to be the mirror of God's unconditional love to all we come in contact with.”

Sr Beryl Amedee RSM,
Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea



“ I see mission as being the love of Christ to people, helping them to know who Jesus is and bringing his love and trying to live that in my own life... and that can be done anywhere in a classroom, even visiting the sick – it can be manifested anywhere – so I can be on mission anywhere, wherever I am.”

Sr Josephine Rush MFIC,
Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception



“ In my life I always intend to be on mission, while I'm ambitious for that I don't always do it very well. However, with that kind of ambition my intent is to be among the people who want to follow Jesus. To do this it means that in my daily life I hope to be mindful that each of us is special, lovable and unique. Over time I have wondered and pondered about mercy. I realise that practising mercy has really got many facets to it. But I think firstly it's an attitude or a predisposition to respect the uniqueness of each person and I'm included in that.”

Sr Margaret Evans RSM,
Sisters of Mercy Brisbane



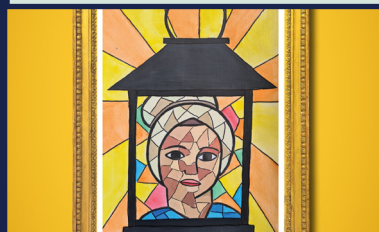
“ Always, wherever I have been, it's a case of “YES” I am here on mission. I'm here for a purpose and that purpose is religious, to be a religious presence in a place and that's what it has always been for me. My purpose is according to the needs of the community I am in. ... It's not about a job, it's about a mission. We are here for God and for God's people.”

Sr Carmel Boyle PBVM,
Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2022 Mercy Partners Leaders' Events

These events are open to Steward Representatives, Founding Congregations, Chairs, Directors, CEOs, Principals, Executive and key staff, Mission and Pastoral Care leaders and emerging leaders, Mercy Partners Council and Committee Members.

Register via the Mercy Partners website: www.mercypartners.org.au/mercy-partners-news/events/
OR go directly to Eventbrite <https://mercy-partners-leader-events.eventbrite.com.au>



"KEEP THE LANTERN BURNING" BOOK LAUNCH

An opportunity to gather together with the Presentation Sisters to celebrate Nano Nagle's Day (26 April) and the release of our new book on the Presentation Charism.

Date: Tuesday 26 April 2022

Time: 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Venue: St Rita's College - 41 Enderley Rd, Clayfield 4011



INDIGENOUS ENCOUNTER DAY

An opportunity to gather with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to celebrate First Nations knowledge, cultures and stories.

Date: Friday 20 May 2022

Time: 9.00am to 3.00pm

Venue: St Teresa's Church - 58 Lonerganne Street, Garbutt 4814



WINTER WARMERS FORMATION EVENT – CENTRAL QLD

An evening to listen to a guest speaker, spend time conversing and contemplating an encounter of head and heart faith.

Date: Wednesday 22 June 2022

Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Venue: St Ursula's College - Queen Street, Yeppoon 4703



WINTER WARMERS FORMATION EVENT – TOWNSVILLE

An evening to listen to a guest speaker, spend time conversing and contemplating an encounter of head and heart faith.

Date: Wednesday 27 July 2022

Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm (AEST)

Venue: TBC



WINTER WARMERS FORMATION EVENT – BRISBANE

An evening to listen to a guest speaker, spend time conversing and contemplating an encounter of head and heart faith.

Date: Wednesday 24 August 2022

Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Venue: Mercy Partners Place - 142 Flower Street, Northgate 4013



MERCY CHARISM CELEBRATION

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy (24 September) we have planned a Mater History Twilight Pilgrimage.

Date: Monday 26 September 2022

Time: 4.00pm to 7.00pm (AEST)

Venue: Mater Hospital - Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane 4101



PRESENTATION CHARISM CELEBRATION

To celebrate Presentation Day (21 November), we are delighted to have Mary Coloe pbvm present "The Parables of John".

Date: Thursday 24 November 2022

Time: 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Venue: Mercy Partners Place - 142 Flower Street, Northgate 4013



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

An event to show our gratitude for the amazing work of the ministries and to celebrate Christmas and support the Giving Tree.

Date: Thursday 1 December 2022

Time: 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: Mercy Partners Place - 142 Flower Street, Northgate 4013

2022 Mercy Partners Retreat & Regional Gatherings

These events are open to Steward Representatives, Founding Congregations, Chairs, Directors, CEOs, Principals, Executive and key staff, Mission and Pastoral Care leaders and emerging leaders, Mercy Partners Council and Committee Members.

Register via the Mercy Partners website: www.mercypartners.org.au/mercy-partners-news/events/
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REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Each regional gathering will run from 6.00pm until 8.30pm

7 JUNE	NORTH QUEENSLAND	Mercure Townsville
12 JULY	SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND	Venue to be confirmed
16 AUGUST	CENTRAL QUEENSLAND	Regent Hotel Rockhamptom
11 OCTOBER	SYDNEY	Venue to be confirmed



RETREATS

PARABLE RETREATS, FACILITATED BY MEGAN MCKENNA

Our facilitator Megan McKenna, an internationally known author, theologian, storyteller and lecturer, she teaches at several colleges and universities and does retreats, workshops and parish missions. She is a lover of words: the Scriptures, stories and tales, poetry, images and phrases spoken aloud, written down and spun to make meaning and how these both convert and transform us and bring meaning and hope to the world.



Each retreat will run from 9.00am until 3.00pm

6 September	Central Qld	The Haven, Emu Park
7 September	South East Qld	Old Bishopsbourne (St Francis Theological College), Milton
9 September	North Qld	House of Prayer, Pimlico
12 September	Sydney	Venue to be confirmed

FRANCISCAN CHARISM DAY: TWILIGHT RETREAT FACILITATED BY MARGIE ABBOTT RSM

Our facilitator Margie Abbott RSM resides in Geelong and offers retreats through her private practice Igniting Sparks under the auspices of McAuley Ministries. Margie is a Laudato Si' animator and the author of *Cosmic Sparks: Igniting a Re-enchantment with the Sacred*. In 2020, Margie facilitated our formation retreats online.

We are so excited to have her join us face-to-face in 2022.

Each retreat will run from 4.00pm to 7.00pm

4 October	Far North Qld	Seville Mercy Conference Centre, Earlville
5 October	North Qld	House of Prayer, Pimlico
6 October	Central Qld	Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Parkhurst
7 October	South East Qld	Mount Alvernia College, Kedron
Date TBC	Sydney	Venue to be confirmed



MERCY PARTNERS NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED ON 9 MARCH

The launch of the new website was met with rave reviews. Our website is a hub of activity where you can find resources, events, latest news, ministry information and so much more... Take a look today www.mercypartners.org.au

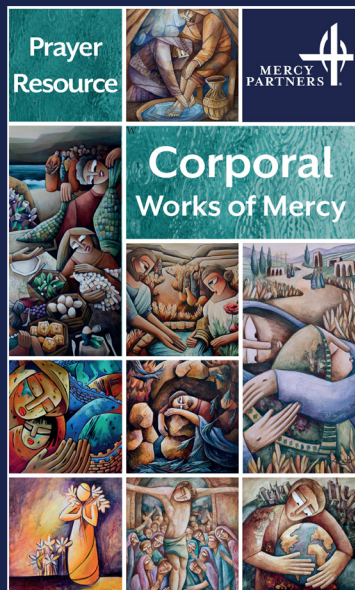
Mercy Partners Website Launch

Good communication helps us to grow closer, to know one another better, and ultimately, to grow in unity.

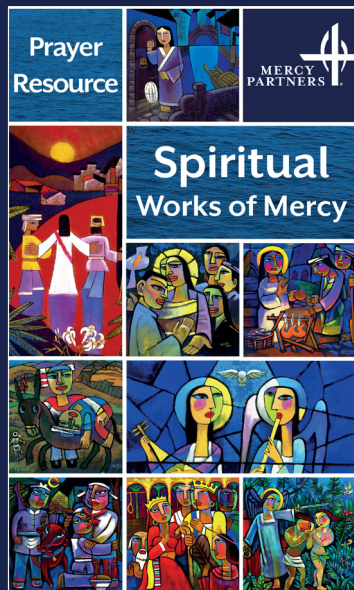
Pope Francis

NEW FORMATION RESOURCES COMING SOON

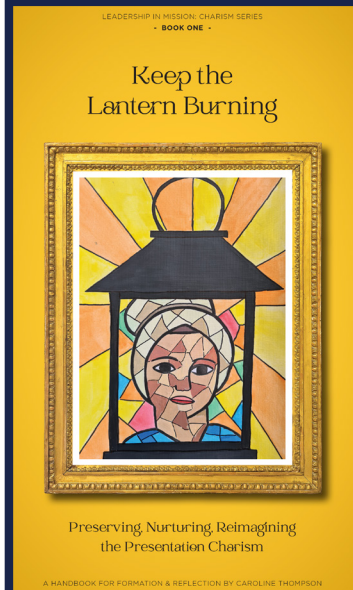
Prayer Resource coming soon



Prayer Resource coming soon



Charism Book April launch



Charism Book September launch



FOR FURTHER SUPPORT CONTACT:

MERCY PARTNERS SECRETARIAT

Chief Executive Officer: John Leahy

Email: info@mercypartners.org.au

Address: 142 Flower Street, Northgate

Phone: 07 3267 5840

MERCY PARTNERS FORMATION

Director of Formation: Dr Caroline Thompson

Email: formation@mercypartners.org.au

Website: www.mercypartners.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mercypartnersformation



COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE