

2015 Generally Advertised Programmes



Sunday April 26th – Saturday May 2nd:

Come Home to Catherine

Facilitated by Anne Reid and Áine Barrins rsm

This programme is an experience of being with Catherine at home in Baggot Street. It offers an opportunity to pray with Catherine in her places and spaces, and to walk in her footsteps through the city of Dublin reflecting on her life and ministry. There will be input and time to reflect on and reconnect with Catherine, the tender woman of mercy who continues to inspire and journey with us towards God.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Thursday May 7th – Wednesday May 13th:

Seeking Mercy that Is Twice Blest

*“The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:”
William Shakespeare ‘Merchant of Venice’*

Facilitated by Oonagh Campbell rsm & Marianne Hieb rsm

Come embrace this opportunity to behold and be beheld by that quality of mercy that blesses the one who gives and the one who receives.

This programme will facilitate participants to explore, listen to, experience and reflect upon how this quality of mercy is present at this time in the cosmic dance of the ‘One’ who ‘IS’. Some of the ways participants will be supported to traverse the colours, textures and contours of mercy that have been called forth in them and which are ever present in whatever name one calls God include:-

Contemplative appreciation of related art works;
Guided meditations on related themes; &
Follow on explorations using art materials.

All aspects of our days together will be honoured as a sacred whole for
*'Blessed is the Creation in its magnificence.
For the Spirit dwells in every living thing
And is indivisible'* (Mary de La Valette)

thereby giving opportunity to deepen our consciousness in each and every moment of what is required to live mercifully at this time upon Mother Earth. In particular meal times will offer opportunity for quiet meditative practice on all that has given itself for our nourishment so that we in turn give of ourselves to all of our kin.

The invitation of these days is for one to become an explorer with the curiosity, innocence and effortless wonder of a child to enquire how the energy of mercy beckons, manifests, and surpasses all that limits to find deep peace in the abyss of the 'Ever Changeless One.' Therefore, no previous experience of art appreciation and/or using art materials is necessary.

The week will be dedicated to Peace.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Sunday June 14th – Saturday June 20th:

Come Home to Catherine

Facilitated by Anne Reid and Áine Barrins rsm

This programme is an experience of being with Catherine at home in Baggot Street. It offers an opportunity to pray with Catherine in her places and spaces, and to walk in her footsteps through the city of Dublin reflecting on her life and ministry. There will be input and time to reflect on and reconnect with Catherine, the tender woman of mercy who continues to inspire and journey with us towards God.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Tuesday July 14th – Friday July 17th:

Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders

Keynote Address: *Mercy in Action – No Boots and Plenty of Walking*
By Ailsa Mackinnon rsm

Additional Keynote and Workshop presenters to be published later.

Students from Mercy secondary schools will travel to Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland. These Mercy pilgrims will undertake their journey in the light of the story of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The students who participate in this pilgrimage will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

Past

As they explore Mercy International Centre, pilgrims will hear the story of Catherine McAuley anew in the House she founded. They will learn about her spirituality and grow in understanding of the rich heritage of the Sisters of Mercy.

Present

Pilgrims will gain a profound sense of the Mercy spirit alive today. They will be challenged by engaging speakers and will encounter the Mercy charism in the diversity of their fellow delegates.

Future

As they reflect on their experiences in Dublin, pilgrims will come to know themselves as Mercy leaders. They will return home emboldened to strive for justice and Mercy, with the courage that Catherine demonstrated.

Price: €250 (Non-Residential Only)

Sunday July 26th – Saturday August 1st:

Mercy - the Wildness of Divine Love

Facilitated by Mary Trainer rsm

*“Belief in God incarnate is belief in the wildness of divine love
to seize us from within and turn us upside down and move us in a new direction.”*

Ilia Delio –Emergent Christ

With Catherine Mc Auley and Pope Francis we open our hearts to embrace this gift of our merciful God- in our own humanity and in our world’s cry. ‘Bent and changed, formed and reformed’, Catherine became a vessel of mercy through which God drew near to broken hearts, healed wounded spirits, and awakened hearts to hear and respond to the cries of the poor.

We enter into this time of retreat assured by Catherine’s words: “If we comply with the *motions of grace* God will create this Love in us.”

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Sunday August 9th – Saturday August 15th:

A Thomas Merton Centenary Event

*Mercy within Mercy within Mercy:
Creative Exploration of Mercy Themes
in Thomas Merton’s Journey and in Our Own...
Facilitated by Marianne Hieb rsm and Oonagh Campbell rsm*

Thomas Merton, monk, mystic, activist and artist, was an influential and prolific spiritual writer who makes eloquent references in his work to the mercy of God. This year marks the centenary of his birth, and, with people around the world, we set aside some time to consider aspects of his legacy. Using excerpts and examples both from his texts and also from his lesser known but evocative black and white calligraphies, we will catch glimpses of his experience of the mercy of God. Added insights from scripture and our mercy sources will invite prayer and reflection on own history and experience of giving and receiving mercy.

The prayer practice of Art-Journaling will be one of the tools we employ as a response to gazing at Merton's black and white calligraphies. We will also encourage a personal journaling practice to accompany the movement of our days of retreat.

Visits to significant Mercy sites, and the ability to investigate in a contemplative way some of the visual and verbal treasures in our own Heritage space will enhance our coming together.

In response to the group gathered, the retreat offers times for sharing, for silence, for community and for solitude. In exploring Merton's experience and our own, we hope to touch into that which is both universal and unique to us as people gathered under the mantle of Mercy.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Sunday August 23rd – Saturday August 29th:

"What had God in mind...?" (C. McAuley)

Facilitated by Áine Barrins rsm

As we engage with Catherine's story and writings, we hope to come to a deeper appreciation of how she understood and experienced 'the loving providence' of God in her life.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Sunday September 20th – Saturday September 26th:

Visions of Mercy

Facilitated by Mary Wickham rsm

This six day Retreat will explore different aspects of Mercy by using a different art work each day as our focus, with the help of Scripture and poetry. With a combination of input and group reflection we will share the graces of our gazing. The Celtic proverb "What fills the eye fills the heart" comes close to describing the process. Definitely no special artistic skills or knowledge required, just a good eye and open heart. Art works chosen from across different cultures and ages.

Price: Residential €570; Non-residential €390.

Presenters



Áine Barrins rsm is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Western Province (Ireland). Her early years in ministry were spent in second level education. Since the early nineties Áine has been ministering in the area of spirituality. She holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, Chicago and a Masters in Theology from The National Council for Educational Awards in Ireland. In recent years Áine has devoted her time and energy to making Catherine McAuley known and loved and it is always a joy for her to share that love of Catherine with others. She regularly facilitates programmes at Mercy International Centre. She has given workshops and retreats on the Letters of Catherine McAuley in Ireland, Great Britain and Australia.



Oonagh Campbell rsm is a native of Co Down, Northern Ireland. She was born into family life on a relatively small, almost self sufficient rural farm (long before the 1988 Peace Agreement in N. Ireland). This context bestowed the values and themes which her soul has continuously sought to engage with. Investigating, exploring and distilling these have been paramount to her journey in order to extract the teachings pertinent for the expansion of soul that this life has called forth.

The creativity of her mother in what were deemed sparse times and her father's abandonment to the providence of God in a silent act of nightly sky gazing instilled a life-long enquiry into creativity and into the Great Mystery of Life on Earth and her/our place in it. The path taken has included becoming a fully registered Social Worker and Art Therapist, training in transpersonal perspectives, P.G. Dip Psychosocial Counselling as well as Aura-Soma colour system Level 1. Oonagh has worked with children and families in a range of settings including disability services, residential services, fostering and adoption, adult mental health and with reflection days for adults to effect change and growth enhancing well-being.

Currently she is developing an independent Art Therapy Service called: Art Therapy ~ Well-Being for ALL, which is an independent provider of art therapy services facilitating art therapy based groups. The service seeks to liaise with existing organisations in the public, private, community and voluntary health, social and education sectors in ways that meet local needs. The purpose is to enhance and support well-being throughout the life cycle.

It is helpful for you, the reader, to have an inkling of who the person is that is co-facilitating 'Seeking Mercy that is Twice Blest' with Marianne Hieb rsm. However, it is important to note in all humility that essentially this soul, like you and all that has ever been, is but an aspect of the great nothingness that is everything in Spirit. It is to that same spirit that a deep bow of gratitude is extended to All that 'is' for creating these reflection days.



Marianne Hieb, RSM is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community: Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. An artist, art therapist, retreat and spiritual director, she designs and facilitates the “Creativity, Spirituality and Wellness” programs through Lourdes Wellness Services, a Franciscan health ministry in New Jersey.

She authored *Inner Journeying through Art-Journaling* and has articles in *Presence* exploring the intersection of art, spirituality and creativity, and in *Mast* on Mercy themes, eg: “Catherine McAuley and the Grace of Unable”.

Through her retreat ministry, she designs and produces a meditative sculpture series: “Encirclings” and a collection of art cards.

She presents “Art-Journaling as a Tool for Wellness and for Spiritual Direction” at retreat centers and educational facilities, and facilitated conference workshops for Spiritual Directors International and for the International Thomas Merton Society in the US and in the UK.

She holds a D.Min in Spiritual Direction, an MFA in studio art, is a registered art therapist and studied spiritual direction at Shalem Institute in Washington DC.

At sixteen, her father gave her a copy of Merton’s *No Man is an Island*, and thus began an early interest in his life and spirituality. Years later, having studied art and integrating it into her ministry, she began to realize that Merton utilized meditative mark-making in his own journey.

She has presented workshops probing this at several Thomas Merton Society Conferences and visited Bellarmine University to view his visual work. She is delighted to learn more about Merton’s experience of mercy in relation to the charism of mercy and to further that exploration through shared wisdom at Mercy International Centre.



Ailsa Mackinnon RSM is a member of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG). She has had over 40 years experience in education at primary, secondary and adult levels. Since completing her term as Congregation Leader of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta, Ailsa took up the role of Executive Director of Mercy Works.

Mercy Works supports the relief and development activities that are part of the mission and vision of the Sisters of Mercy and Papua New Guinea. In Australia Mercy Works offers community education in world development concerns, provides assistance with refugees and asylum seekers and works in partnership with Indigenous peoples. In Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Philippines it works in collaboration with local partners and directs its efforts towards education, health care and the social well-being of those who are poor or displaced.



Anne Reid, a native of Ireland, is an Associate with the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She has been involved in the ministry of Mercy International Centre since 1994. Anne is the author of *Daring to be Different - The life of Catherine Elizabeth McAuley. Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy*, which is a story of Catherine written in a way to appeal to young people and those young at heart. She is also the narrator for several Mercy resources including *A Pictorial Tour of Catherine McAuley's House of Mercy* and *Your Ever Affectionate, M.C. McAuley*.



Mary Trainer RSM, Ph.D. Mary Trainer entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1958, spending her early years in the ministry of elementary and secondary education. In 1972 she became a member of the Renewal Team of the Sisters of Mercy. This renewal process focused on reclaiming our roots in the Gospel and the charism of Catherine McAuley, while adapting our life and ministry to Vatican II's call to engage the modern world. In 1981 she received a doctorate in Social Psychology from Boston University and a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Shalem Institute for Spiritual Guidance. From 1989 until 1994 she coordinated the process which gathered the Presidents of the Mercy Institutes world wide to discern and ultimately sponsor the transformation of the original House of Mercy, Baggot St. into Mercy International Centre. She ministered for five years in the Sponsorship Office of Eastern Mercy Health System and Catholic Health East with responsibility for Mission and Values, and Leadership Development. Recently Mary resigned from the position of Director of Cranleith Spiritual Center where she served for the last 15 years. After a sabbatical, she will continue her ministry in spiritual direction, and retreats focused particularly on the charism of mercy.



Mary Wickham rsm is a Mercy Sister from Melbourne Australia. She is a poet and editor with a keen interest in Celtic Spirituality and the way the Arts can enhance our spiritual experience. She has extensive experience working with the homeless and frail aged, has worked in secondary and tertiary education, and was more recently a member of the Melbourne Congregation Council. Her poetry has been published in Australia, Ireland and the USA, and she is currently constructing a website of her writing.



Programmes held at:

Mercy International Centre

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P: +353 1 661 8061 | E: bookings@mercyinternational.ie

W: www.mercyworld.org

-  Weeklong Programmes begin at 5 p.m. on the first day and end with lunch on final day.
-  Schedule for *Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders* to be determined. Some events offsite.