



# Watering the Roots at the Wellsprings of Mercy

Mercy International Centre  
64a Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2

Sunday 4 June ~ Saturday 1 July 2017

Mercy International Association presents this month-long renewal programme for vowed Mercy women, seeking refreshment and renewal. Participants will have the opportunity to take time out in an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality, and internationality in order to discern more clearly the invitation of the Spirit in how to live out the mission of Mercy in our church and world.

Cost: €2200 (Residential, full month); €1620 (Non-residential). Part-time participation pro-rata.

First choice for residential accommodation given to full month participants.

**To register, contact Madeleine at [bookings@mercyinternational.ie](mailto:bookings@mercyinternational.ie) or +353 1 661 8061**

**Week 1:** [5.00 p.m. Sunday 4 June until lunch Saturday 10 June]  
**Come Home to Catherine ~ led by Anne Reid with Áine Barrins rsm**

Experience being at home with Catherine in Baggot Street. The week will offer 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.

*Free Days: Saturday afternoon 10 June through Monday 12 June*

**Week 2:** [breakfast on Tuesday 13 June until evening meal Friday 16 June]  
**The Challenge: Religious Life Today – An uncomfortable place in an unsettling time!**  
**Led by Helena O'Donoghue rsm with Mary Reynolds rsm**

We will engage with our personal and communal experience, in an interactive way, of the immense shifts in our understanding and patterns of Religious Life over the past few decades. Facing our current challenge we will seek to explore the constitutive and complementary dimensions of this way of life within the realms of spirituality, of Church and Mercy in our time. Recalling our initial and on-going response to God's love in Christ Jesus, we would hope to articulate again the essence, relevance and particular incarnational beauty and mission of Religious Life in an evolving world.

*Free days: Friday evening 16 June until 7 p.m. Sunday 18 June*

**Week 3:** [evening of Sunday 18 June until evening meal Friday 23 June]  
**Mercy Spirituality in the Age of Globalization ~ led by Johann M. Vento**

We will explore together questions about how mercy is understood and experienced in our "globalized" world and articulate the contours of a mercy spirituality that is grounded in the rich, diverse, and ever developing tradition of Christian theology and spirituality. We will also delve into the meaning of mercy in various world religious traditions. Mercy spirituality engages the world and its myriad gifts and challenges with openness, attentiveness, prayer and contemplation, loving presence, forgiveness, reverence for human life and all creation, an appreciation for beauty, a thirst for justice, a desire for peace, and the practice of compassion.

*Free days: Saturday 24 June & Sunday 25 June*

**Week 4:** [evening of Sunday 25 June until lunch Saturday 1 July]  
**Resourcing Ourselves for Healthy Living ~**

**led by Ann Brady rsm, Paula Carron rsm, Mary Conway rsm and Lily Sexton rsm**

The final week will explore a variety of mind-body-spirit modalities designed to support and enhance healthy living. Practices will include mindfulness, reflexology, visualisation, gentle body movement and breathwork.

## Renewal Programme Core Staff

**Áine Barrins rsm** is a member of the Western Province of The Congregation in Ireland. Her early years in ministry were in second level education. Since the nineties Áine has been ministering in the area of spirituality. She has devoted the last eleven years to making Catherine known and loved and has given workshops and retreats based on Catherine's life and spirituality throughout Ireland, Great Britain, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Áine will be the facilitator/spiritual guide for the full month programme.

**Ann Brady rsm & Paula Carron rsm** have been offering Capacitar workshops in Trauma Healing for Catholic and Protestant groups involved in victims' rights, reconciliation and peace efforts in Northern Ireland since 2003. They have also conducted training sessions with participants working with schools, mental health and trauma centres, prisoners and victims' groups, women's groups, family centres, and those affected by the years of the Troubles. Both currently serve on the provincial leadership team for the Northern Province of The Congregation in Ireland.

**Mary Conway rsm** is a Sister of Mercy from the North of Ireland. She began her working career as a teacher of physical education and mathematics before training as a family therapist at Santa Clara University, California. Mary has worked as a therapist, yoga teacher and mindfulness teacher at the Aisling Centre, Enniskillen. She currently serves on the provincial leadership team for the Northern Province of The Congregation in Ireland.

**Helena O'Donoghue rsm** belongs to the South Central Province of The Congregation in Ireland. A former secondary school teacher and principal, she has worked in community development, retreat work, spirituality, chapters and has written widely on religious topics. She served in Leadership at Congregational and Provincial levels (1985-2007) and was President of the Conference of Religious in Ireland (1999-2002). Currently she is engaged with transition matters in healthcare and education, as well as spirituality work and social action for people affected by homelessness.

**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 Reynolds rsm** is the Executive Director of Mercy International Association (MIA). In this capacity Mary leads, integrates, develops and manages Mercy International Association in accordance with the MIA Vision.

**Lily Sexton rsm** is a member of the Northern Province of The Congregation in Ireland. She is a native of Cavan and trained as a teacher. She has spent the last 9 years focussed in the area of Healing. Lily is very committed to Wellbeing and passionate about helping people live life to the full.

**Johann M. Vento, Ph.D.** is Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at Sisters of Mercy sponsored Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey, USA. Her primary research interests are political theology and mercy, praxis theory and spiritual formation; violence, trauma, and healing; and inter-religious dialogue. She has collaborated with many others in the Mercy world to create an online certificate in Mercy Spirituality. She has published articles in *Horizons*, *Teaching Theology and Religion*, *Jnanadeepa: Pune Journal of Religious Studies*, and in several edited volumes. She lives in Ramsey, NJ with her husband Michael and their two children, Mira and Samuel.

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