



**Vol. 7/No. 3 March 2024**

**Kitty's Chronicle**

**Mercy Associates Newsletter**

### ***Prayers for the Sick***

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and care-givers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (Sister Maureen O'Keefe's grandnephew), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover), Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), Gabrielle Knight and Baxter Taylor (husband of Mary Taylor).

(If you wish to have your name or another person's name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know. ([drover.sharon@yahoo.ca](mailto:drover.sharon@yahoo.ca)))



### **Prayer for the Sick**

**Through the Intercession of Catherine McAuley**

**God of Love and Mercy,  
You inspired Catherine McAuley,  
To serve your Son by responding**

**To the needs of her time.  
Moved by her care for the Sick,  
We ask that through Her Prayers  
You reach out with Your Healing Love  
And restore them to full health  
We ask this in complete  
Confidence through Jesus Christ, Your Son  
Amen.  
Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us  
Amen.**



**Birthdays for January – Oops! Missed them!**

Tomi Cleal – January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sharon Drover – January 15<sup>th</sup>

**Birthdays for February – Oops! Missed them too!**

Laura Goss – February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah McGrath – February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Bradbury – February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Louise Brennan – February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kay McNally – February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Barbara Albrechtsons – February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Birthdays for March**

Anne Bown – March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Bess Collins – March 28<sup>th</sup>



## ***Light a Candle***

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.



## **From the Wisdom Circles**

### ***Circle of Compassion***

*“When we’re looking for compassion, we need someone who is deeply rooted, is able to bend and, most of all, embraces us for our strengths and struggles.”*

—  
Brené Brown

### ***Contemplative Presence***

*“Prayer is sitting in the silence  
until it silences us,  
choosing gratitude  
until we are grateful,*

*and praising God  
until we ourselves  
are an act of praise.”*

---

Richard Rohr



### ***Integrity of Creation***

*“Woven into our lives is the very fire from the stars and the genes from the sea creatures, and everyone, utterly everyone, is kin in the radiant tapestry of being. This relationship is not external or extrinsic to our identity but wells up as the defining truth from our deepest being.”*

---

Theologian Elizabeth Johnson

## ***Diversity and Inclusion***

*“Diversity requires commitment. Achieving superior performance diversity can produce further action-most notably, a commitment to develop a culture of inclusion. People do not just need to be different, they need to be fully involved and feel their voices are heard.”*

Alain Dehaze, CEO of Adecco



## **Notes from the Associates/Sisters**

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**The name of March comes from *Martius*, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. His month *Martius* was the beginning of the season for warfare, and the festivals held in his honor during the month were mirrored by others in October, when the season for these activities came to a close. *Martius* remained the first month of the**



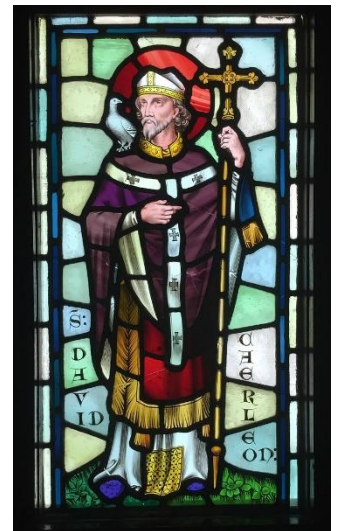
**Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Even in late antiquity, Roman mosaics picturing the months sometimes still placed March first.**



### ***March 1<sup>st</sup> - Saint David's Day***

Saint David is the patron saint of Wales and falls on 1 March, the date of Saint David's death in 589 AD.

David's fame as a teacher spread among Celtic Christians, and he helped found about 1200 monasteries. His foundation at Glyn Rhosyn became an important Christian shrine and the most important center in Wales. The date of Saint David's death is believed to be 1 March 589. His final words to the community of monks were: "Brothers be ye constant. The yoke which with single mind ye have taken, bear ye to the end; and whatsoever ye have seen with me and heard, keep and fulfill."



Traditional festivities include wearing daffodils and leeks, recognized symbols of Wales and Saint David, respectively, eating traditional Welsh food including cawl and Welsh rarebit, and women wearing traditional Welsh dress. An increasing number of cities and towns across Wales, including Cardiff, Swansea, and Aberystwyth also put on parades throughout the day.

The day is not a public holiday in Wales, which has prompted calls for a Saint David's Day to be a bank holiday in Wales and some organizations designating unofficial celebrations.



The feast has been regularly celebrated since the canonization of David in the 12th century by Pope Callixtus II.



## ***Women in Canadian History***



### **Thérèse Casgrain (1896–1981)**

Activist, radio host, and political leader. Despite being brought up in wealth and privilege, Thérèse Casgrain felt that life should be fair to everyone. She helped to found the Provincial Franchise Committee for Women's Suffrage in 1921 and later hosted a prominent radio program, called *Fémina*, for Radio-Canada. She became the first female leader of a political party in Canada — the left-leaning Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) — in the 1940s. In the early 1960s, she founded the Quebec branch of the Voice of Women to mobilize women against the Cold War nuclear threat. Later, she

became the Quebec president of the Consumers Association of Canada. She did much to better the lives of Canadian women. *Photo: Archives nationales du Québec*



### **Ga'axstal'as, Jane Constance Cook (1870–1951)**

Kwakwaka'wakw leader, cultural mediator, and activist. Born on Vancouver Island, Ga'axstal'as, Jane Constance Cook was the daughter of a Kwakwaka'wakw noblewoman and a white fur trader. Raised by a missionary couple, she had strong literacy skills and developed a good understanding of both cultures and legal systems. As the grip of colonialism tightened around West Coast nations, Cook lobbied for First Nations to retain rights of access to land and resources. She testified at the McKenna-McBride Royal

Commission of 1914 and was the only woman on the executive of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia in 1922. A fierce advocate for women and children, she was also a midwife and healer and raised sixteen children. *Photo: Royal BC Museum, BC Archives*



### **Viola Desmond (1914–1965)**

Challenged segregation practices in Nova Scotia. Long before the modern civil rights movement in the United States, a black woman from Halifax took a stand for racial equality in a rural Nova Scotia movie theatre. It was 1946, and Viola Desmond, a hairdresser, caused a stir by refusing to move to a section of the theatre unofficially set aside for black patrons. Desmond was dragged out of the theatre and jailed. While officials denied that Desmond's race was the root of the issue, her case galvanized Nova Scotia's black population to fight for change. In 1954, segregation was legally ended in Nova Scotia. *Photo: Public domain*





## **Mary Two-Axe Earley (1911–1996)**

Challenged law discriminating against First Nations women. Mary Two-Axe Earley plunged into activism at age fifty-five, despite considerable opposition from her own community. In the end, she improved the lives of thousands of Aboriginal women and their children. Born on the Kahnawake Mohawk territory, close to Montreal, Two-Axe Earley moved to Brooklyn, married an Irish-American, and had two children. She was later widowed. Because she had lost her Indian status by marrying a non-Aboriginal, she was barred from going back to live on her reserve. For more than two decades, Two-Axe Earley lobbied

to have the discriminatory law reversed. In 1985 she was successful. Her efforts benefited about sixteen thousand women and forty-six thousand first generation descendants. *Photo: CP/Toronto Star*



## **Poetry Pause**

### **TO MARCH**

*by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)*

Dear March, come in!  
How glad I am!  
I looked for you before.  
Put down your hat —  
You must have walked —

How out of breath you are!  
Dear March, how are you?  
And the rest?  
Did you leave Nature well?  
Oh, March, come right upstairs with me,  
I have so much to tell!

I got your letter, and the birds';  
The maples never knew  
That you were coming, — I declare,  
How red their faces grew!  
But, March, forgive me —  
And all those hills  
You left for me to hue;  
There was no purple suitable,  
You took it all with you.

Who knocks? That April!

Lock the door!  
I will not be pursued!  
He stayed away a year, to call  
When I am occupied.  
But trifles look so trivial  
As soon as you have come,  
That blame is just as dear as praise  
And praise as mere as blame.





March 24<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday & Beginning of Holy Week  
March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – The Sacred Paschal Triduum  
March 31<sup>st</sup> – The Resurrection of the Lord



*From Kitty's Kitchen*

## *Italian Iced Orange Cookies*

### **Ingredients:**

#### **Wet Ingredients:**

- 6 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup fresh orange juice (or from the carton works too)
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 1/8 teaspoon almond extract

#### **Dry Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder



- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- For the icing:
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh orange juice
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1 tablespoon softened cream cheese

## **Instructions:**

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together the butter and sugar for 1 minutes until well combined. Turn mixer to medium-low speed and add in egg (make sure it's at room temp -- you can do this by running the egg under warm water for 1 min), beating until well combined, smooth and creamy into the butter and sugar. Next beat in the orange juice, zest and almond extract for about 30 more seconds.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Add to the wet ingredients and mix together on medium speed until combined.
- Drop about one heaping tablespoon full of dough onto prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart. You should end up with 14-16 cookies. Bake for 10-13 minutes until just barely golden brown on the edges.
- Remove and allow to cool on baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling completely. Repeat with remaining dough.
- To make the icing: Once cookies have cooled, make the icing: add the powdered sugar, orange juice, zest, melted butter and softened cream cheese to a bowl. A drop of almond extract is also delicious in the icing, but please only do one drop if you'd like. Dip the top of the cookies in the icing then place back on the wire rack to allow icing to harden. Garnish with a little extra orange zest to make them pretty. Makes about 14-16 cookies.

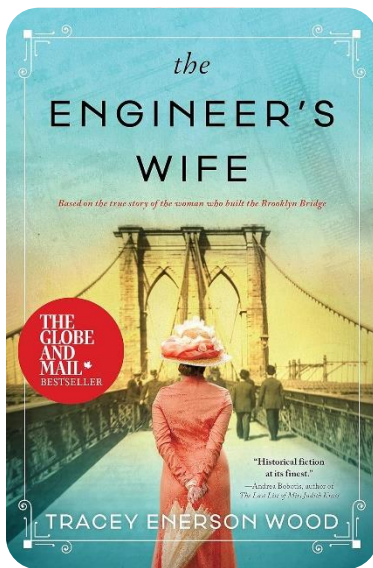


## From Kitty's Library

### A Good Read...

### *The Engineer's Wife* Tracey Enerson Wood

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER!



She built the Brooklyn Bridge, so why don't you know her name?

Emily Roebling built a monument for all time. Then she was lost in its shadow. Discover the fascinating woman who helped design and construct the Brooklyn Bridge.

Emily refuses to live conventionally—she knows who she is and what she wants, and she's determined to make change. But then her husband asks the unthinkable: give up her dreams to make his possible.

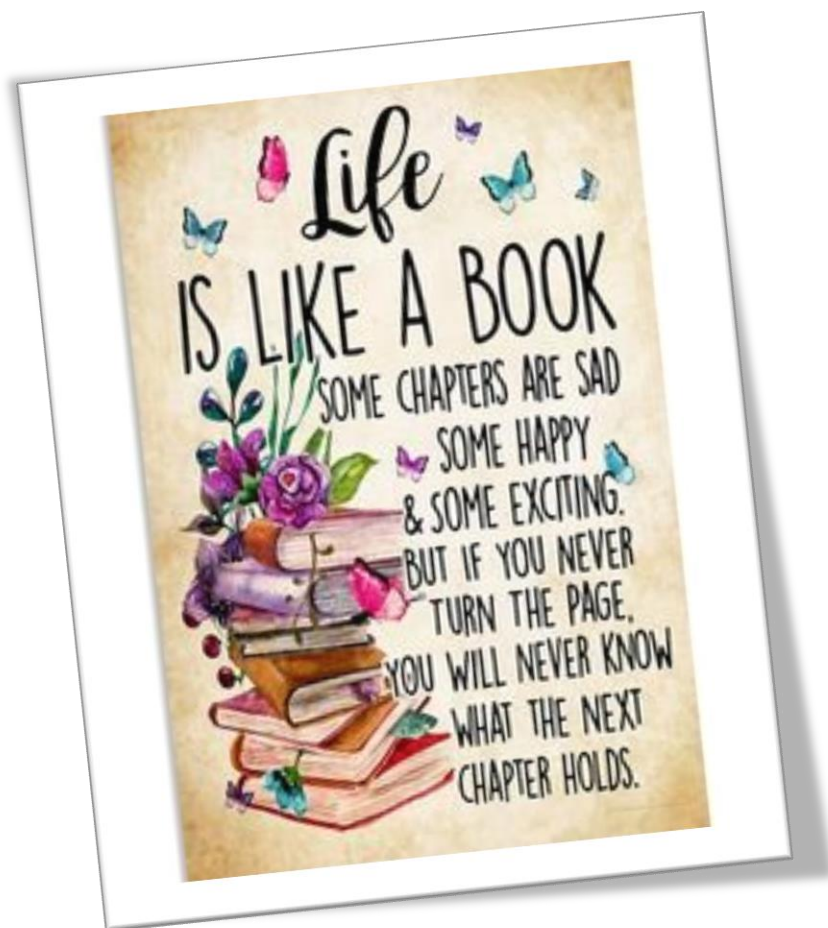
Emily's fight for women's suffrage is put on hold, and her life transformed when her husband Washington Roebling, the Chief Engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge, is injured on the job. Untrained for the task, but under his guidance, she assumes his role, despite stern resistance and overwhelming obstacles. But as the project takes

shape under Emily's direction, she wonders whose legacy she is building—hers, or her husband's. As the monument rises, Emily's marriage, principles, and identity threaten to collapse. When the bridge finally stands finished, will she recognize the woman who built it?

Based on the true story of an American icon, *The Engineer's Wife* delivers an emotional portrait of a woman transformed by a project of unfathomable scale, which takes her into the bowels of the East River, suffragette riots, the halls of Manhattan's elite, and the heady, freewheeling temptations of P.T. Barnum. The biography of a husband and wife determined to build something that lasts—even at the risk of losing each other.



### *Pause for Thought*





---

Time for a smile...

How can you tell if a leprechaun likes your joke?  
.....He's Dublin over with laughter.

What's Irish and stays out all night?  
.....Paddy O'Furniture

How can you tell if a potato is not from Ireland?  
.....When it's a French fry



## **STORMS AND TEACUPS: AN ACROSTIC ON THE LEADERSHIP OF CATHERINE MCAULEY**

*(This article was first published in the ISMA Journal Listen, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2004.)*

### ***Part IV***

## **Risktaker**

---

It is perhaps true to say that trust in God, trust in Providence, often only takes on that exalted title when the trust has been vindicated. In the blind reality of the moment, the one who trusts can be seeming to take inordinate risks, committing herself to a course of action that might just as well end in disaster as success. Or is it that the Spirit all the while urges one such as Catherine to concur with and act out of the sentiments of George Bernard Shaw's St. Joan, "with Christ I dare and dare"?

This aspect of Catherine's leadership, call it trust or risk-taking as you will, can be seen from the first in her dream for a house in Baggot St, and the response it evoked in both a number of friends and disinterested parties who deemed it "Kitty's Folly..."

Against all normal caution for a single woman of her age and station, Catherine did not set about "securing her future" in any materialistic sense after the death of the Callaghans, but instead seemed to "squander" her inheritance on a dream. The hidden reality of course, was that her dream and the work of the Spirit were engaged in a dynamic dance, and the result was a movement of grace, of blessing. The kind of Spirit-risk that guided Catherine's life, amidst the inevitable failures and wrong choices, has nothing to do with personal ambition, or vanity or acquisition of power for its own sake.

One other instance of risk-taking, quite staggering when one considers the historical and cultural context, was the foundation at Bermondsey, which as Mary Sullivan points out was "the first new Catholic convent founded in London since the Reformation."

What is it that Catherine says to us? Perhaps that some risks are meant to be taken, that trust is always, at least at first, in the dark. One of the most poignant images of Catherine is a description of her on her deathbed. Some hours before her death, she asked for a candle to be placed in her hands. She held the light, the great symbol of Christ, knowing she was about to pass into an unknown and dark territory before meeting Christ himself on the other side of death. All her life she was a bearer of light in the darkness, risking her fate, believing the light would overcome the darkness, and trusting the path that held her feet.

**Next month, Catherine: Includer**

*The Last Word...*

*“Oh may He look on us with love and pity  
and then we shall be able to do anything  
He wishes us to do, no matter how difficult  
to accomplish or painful to our feeling.”*

*Catherine McAuley*





I am the resurrection and the life. Jn 11