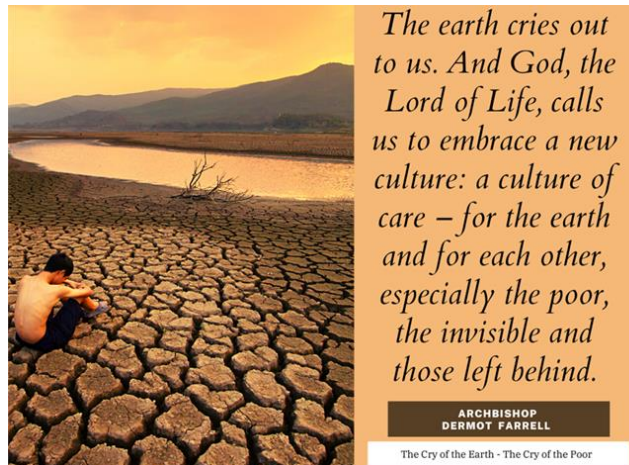


## Foundation Day 12 December 2024

Hymn: God of Mercy Chant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOH3RGTLyU&t=3s>

### Opening Prayer:

God, guide us to live and be “Mercy, the principal path marked out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following him”. Original Rule of the Sisters of Mercy



### Reading:

Mercy Sisters, Associates and Partners unite in spirit and mission to honour the enduring legacy of our beloved foundress, Catherine McAuley. Catherine's deep compassion and unyielding dedication to those rendered poor and marginalised remain the bedrock. Catherine redefined Mercy as a way of being and a call to action, challenging each of us to live out her spirit. Her vision, the House of Mercy was built not only to meet immediate needs but to transform lives, offering dignity and opportunity to all who entered there.

Catherine's memory calls us to carry her legacy inspiring us to go beyond physical needs to nourish spirits. Today and every day, we draw inspiration from the gentle wisdom of Catherine: "Let us take one day only in hands at a time. Resolve to do good today and better tomorrow." Here, Catherine encourages us to live each day with purpose and compassion, knowing that meaningful change is achieved step by step.

Mary Sullivan rsm writes, "If we wish to sow the seeds of real hope in our world, Catherine would say: This is the way we must do it- one person at a time: one embrace of the stranger, one answering of the figurative doorbell, of the figurative door, one, one welcoming of the other, one sharing of our bread and milk-one person at a time." May Catherine's call to mindful, daily action guide us forward as we work for a hopeful world.

Adapted-MGA Newsletter Nov-Dec '24

**Reflection Question:** How is Catherine's call to mindful, daily action guiding you/us forward as I/we live Mercy for a hopeful world?



**Response:** May we hold firmly to the God of Mercy.

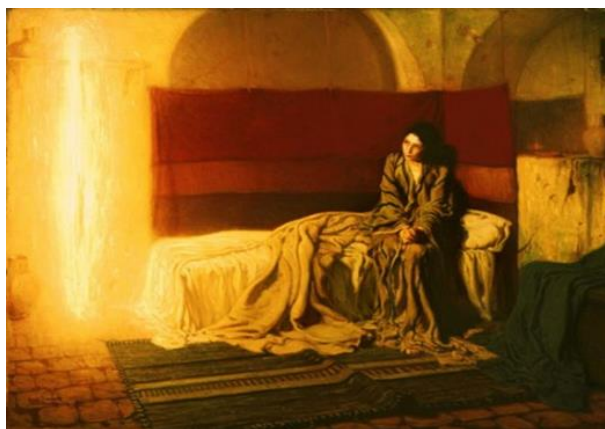
In the sitting with, the patient listening that Catherine knew was the making of mercy. **R**

As we do what we can, where we can, attuning to the whispered blessings. **R**

In the jolts of unexpected calls, as well as events unsought and unwelcome. **R**

In being part of the big picture and steady companion to the minutiae. **R**

Adapted- Mary Wickham rsm The Economics of Mercy 2024



**Closing Blessing:**

Whatever our moment of graced mercy this day,  
the apparently large or the seemingly small,  
may we own the paradoxical wonder of it,  
trust the quiet subtlety of its power to transform,  
rejoice in its secret, never fully known, Spirit-sent methods,  
and hold firmly but humbly to its source- God, who is Mercy.

Mary Wickham rsm The Economics of Mercy 2024