

# Celebrating Mercy Day 2014

## THEME:

*'In the midst of all our tripping about our hearts can always be in the same place centred in God'*

(Letter of Catherine McAuley to Sr. de Sales White - 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1840)

## **Suggestions to Create Prayer Space**

*Create a spiral using cloth, sand, or stones leading to centre with a candle or image to represent God. Use name, emblem, map, or candle to represent each congregation/institute/federation of Mercy. Jug/ewer, bowl of water, bread, wine glass, Mercy symbol or Mercy International Association symbol might also be used.*

**QUIET MUSIC:** *(play some reflective music to help people move into a quiet space).*

As we gather today to celebrate on the feast of Our Lady of Mercy we ask:

- What drew Catherine in her time?
- What is evoking mercy today in our time?

As we journey in Jesus and Catherine's footsteps we are challenged to be continually centered in God in the midst of this "tripping about"

## **SUGGESTED OPENING SONG - GATHER**

Gather from the East, gather from the West,  
Gather from the highways too.  
Gather from the North, gather from the South,  
Gather when the night is noon.

Gather all the needy, gather all in pain,  
Gather all who cry in vain.  
Gather all the thirsty, gather all the poor,  
Gather all in Jesus' name.

*And we'll gather, and we shall reap,  
And no longer in sadness we'll weep,  
And we'll gather, and we shall reap  
resting, rising, calling, guiding O Lord.*

Gather all forgotten, gather all forlorn,  
Gather all who weep and mourn.

## **WORDS AND MUSIC BY LIAM LAWTON**

Gather all the silent, gather all who sing,  
Gather all the hearts reborn.

*And we'll gather, and we shall reap,  
And no longer in sadness we'll weep,  
And we'll gather, and we shall reap  
resting, rising, calling, guiding O Lord.*

Gather from all races, gather from all creeds,  
Gather that you may believe.  
Gather all you ages, gather in his keep,  
Gather in the Lord's own peace.

*And we'll gather, and we shall reap,  
And no longer in sadness we'll weep,  
And we'll gather, and we shall reap  
resting, rising, calling, guiding O Lord*

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Aware of the mystery of God in all our realities, we come together to celebrate our oneness in Mercy, with gratitude, appreciation for God's care and concern on this our special feast day. We celebrate also the blessings given and received in Catherine's House, especially over the past twenty years as Mercy International Centre.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

*(Play quiet music in background and raise volume to create a short pause between each reading).*

### **Lam. 3:22-23**

*'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
God's mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.'*

### **Micah 6:8**

*'What does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly, to love tenderly*

*and to walk humbly with your God'*

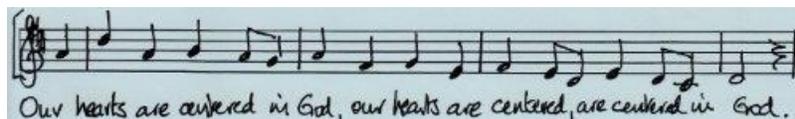
### **Catherine McAuley:**

*'There are three things that are prized more highly than gold,  
though they cost the donor nothing;  
...the kind word, the gentle,  
compassionate look  
and the patient hearing of sorrows'.  
(Fam.ins.p.36)*

## Pause for Reflection with quiet music

## LITANY

Refrain: *'Our hearts are centred in God'*



In Ireland and Great Britain ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In North & South America ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In Africa – North and South ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In Australia, Papua New Guinea... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In Aotearoa New Zealand... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In Newfoundland and the Philippines ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
Within our families, neighbourhood and with our co-workers ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
Wherever there is a Mercy presence ... *our hearts are centred in God*

## SUSCIPE (CATHERINE TERESA MARTIN – COTHU AGUS IOMLANU NO. 11)

# Suscipe

C. T. Martin  
17th October 1997

## Refrain

My God I am yours for time and e - ter - ni - ty Lord, I am yours for -  
My God I am yours for time and e - ter - ni - ty Lord, I am yours for -  
5 My God I am yours for time and e - ter - ni - ty Lord, I am yours for -

## Fine

- ev - er. It is you who must teach me to trust in your pro - vid - ence Lov - ing Lord.  
- ev - er. It is you who must teach me to trust in your pro - vid - ence Lov - ing Lord.  
- ev - er. It is you who must teach me to trust in your pro - vid - ence Lov - ing Lord.

## Verse 1

S You are a God of love and ten - der - ness, I place my faith in you and I  
C You are a God of love and ten - der - ness, I place my faith in you and I  
B You are a God of love and ten - der - ness, I place my faith in you and I

S ask that you grant me a - ccep - tance of your will, Lov - ing Lord.  
C ask that you grant me a - ccep - tance of your will, Lov - ing Lord.  
B ask that you grant me a - ccep - tance of your will, Lov - ing Lord.

## Verse 2

## Refrain

Take from my heart all painful anxiety  
let nothing sadden me but sin and  
let my delight be hoping to see your face  
God my all. Ref.

Cana was an act of mercy, a 'changing' from pain to joy. In the context of 'tripping about' to the normal event of a wedding, Jesus and Mary were centered in the God of Mercy.

## SCRIPTURE READING

There was a wedding in Cana and Jesus' mother was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were also invited.  
When the wine had given out  
Jesus' mother said to him – 'they have no wine left'.  
'You must not tell me what to do' Jesus said, 'my time has not come'.  
Jesus' mother then told the servants 'do whatever he tells you'.  
There were six large water jars there for the purpose of washing.  
Jesus said to the servants 'fill these jars with water'.  
They filled them to the brim.  
Then Jesus said 'draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast'.  
They took the water which had now turned into wine... (John 2:1-9) (Good News Version)

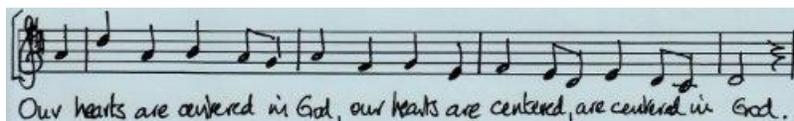
## POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis speaks of 'mercy' almost every day –

"Mercy is the name of our God, and without mercy we are lost" (To Cardinal Kasper)  
"Hearing the word 'mercy' changes everything....it changes the world"  
"Mercy ....is the Lord's most powerful message" (March 17, 2013)  
"It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension.  
But we must!" (March 17, 2013)  
"God's mercy lovingly heals the wounds of sin" (April 7, 2014)  
"Be ministers of Mercy above all else"

**Pause for Reflection** with quiet music

## LITANY



**Refrain:** 'Our hearts are centred in God'. (sung)

In our relief efforts to war torn areas ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In welcoming the displaced persons in our midst ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In protecting those abused through human trafficking ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In caring for the sick and vulnerable ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In our ongoing work of education ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In our efforts to relieve poverty and homelessness ... *our hearts are centred in God*  
Through the support of our prayer... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In creating awareness of the evolving universe story... *our hearts are centred in God*  
In making Catherine McAuley known and loved ... *our hearts are centred in God*

## POEM - THE CALL IS MERCY – CARMEL BRACKEN RSM

In the midst of life's dryness  
Her thirst was quenched with the blessing of  
water  
Welling up from inner springs;  
Becoming a pool, mirroring its origin;  
Source overflowing, until cascading Fountain of  
Mercy  
Broke over her to become source for other  
rivers.

Rivers that flowed outward and onward  
Pouring mercy, at times in trickles at times in  
torrents,

Onto a parched land.

Rivers that channelled out new paths  
That allowed deserts to blossom;  
Gushing waters that wore away stones;  
Refreshing waters that cleansed, healed  
And supported the myriads of creatures it  
teemed with.

Swirl us around again in that fountain of life;  
Immerse us in our One Source  
The flow of Mercy surging in our veins.

## CLOSING PRAYER

We thank you God for this time together on this feast of Our Lady of Mercy. May the unity which we experience today sustain us into the future. Help us to reclaim the motivating force in the call of Catherine McAuley and to give new expression to the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in the reality of our daily lives. Amen

## AN IRISH BLESSING FOR YOU - ROMA DOWNEY

A Thiarna dean trócaire

May the blessing of light be upon you  
Light on the outside, light on the inside  
With God's sunlight shining on you  
May your heart glow with warmth  
Like a turf fire that welcomes friends and strangers  
alike.  
May the Light of the Lord shine from your eyes  
Like a candle in the window  
Welcoming the weary traveller.

May the blessing of God's soft rain be on you  
Falling gently on your head,  
Refreshing your soul with the sweetness of little  
flowers  
Newly blooming  
May the strength of the winds of heaven bless you

Carrying the rain to wash your spirit clean  
Sparkling after in the sunlight.  
May the blessing of God's earth be on you.

And as you walk the roads  
May you always have a kind word for those you  
meet.  
May you understand the strength and power of God  
In a thunderstorm in winter  
And the quiet beauty of creation  
And the calm of a summer sunset  
And may you come to realise that insignificant as you  
may seem in this great universe ....  
You are an important part of God's plan  
May God watch over you and keep you safe from  
harm.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnFZFf8qLSA>