

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

REMEMBRANCE DAY

'May we all meet in heaven. Oh, what a joy, even to think of it!'

Opening Hymn

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The Clouds' Veil: The Song of the Celtic Soul by Liam Lawton. [Available on YouTube here.](#)

Gathering Moment

We have come together today as a community of Mercy to commemorate the death of Catherine McAuley. We think of the early Sisters of Mercy gathered around her bed as she lay dying and of their grief when she was with them no longer. Catherine, herself, was no stranger to the tears of loneliness when someone she loved died.

As we remember the loss Catherine was to the emerging Mercy community, we also remember those we love who have died. We gather today in remembrance to pray with, and for, each other, to support and encourage each other. We gather in faith and hope to remember and honour all those who have been called to eternal life.

Gathering in the community room, having a good cup of tea following Catherine's death, no doubt many stories and memories were shared. We too gather to share our memories: we remember Catherine's vision, her service to those on the margins of society especially women and children, and her relationship with God 'for whom alone we go forward or stay back.' We recall with joy the love she shared with all those who passed through the doors of Baggot Street and the hope she held for a future where all were treated with compassion and dignity.

Scripture

John 14: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

Reflection

Pause for a moment of reflection



*We remember the
death of Catherine
McAuley on
November 11, 1841.*

Meditation

Grief by John O'Donohue

The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to the presence beside you, and draw on it for encouragement and blessing. The departed is now no longer restricted to any one place, but can be with you any place you are. It is good to know the blessings of this presence.

To Ponder

How do you experience the blessing of presence? How are you called to remember Catherine?

Litany of Remembrance

We Remember Them by Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

*You may wish to light a candle as you pray this litany,
remembering all those who have gone before us in Mercy.*

In the rising of the sun and its going down. **We remember them.**

When we are weary and in need of strength. **We remember them.**

When we are lost and sick at heart. **We remember them.**

When we have joys we yearn to share. **We remember them.**

So long as we live, they too shall live for they are now a part of us. **We remember them.**

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter. **We remember them.**

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring. **We remember them.**

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer. **We remember them.**

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn. **We remember them.**

In the beginning of the year and when it ends. **We remember them.**

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now part of us. **We remember them.**

Closing Prayer

Lord our God, we remember Catherine McAuley and all those who have gone before us in Mercy. Gratefully we remember the faith, compassion, and commitment to service they have passed to us. We see in them a sign of Your unbounded love. We remember them as we carry the torch of Mercy forward to brighten the path for all those who continue Catherine's vision. We know their names are written on the palm of Your hand. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, by the grace of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*