

23 January 2020



Dear Mercy Educators,

Greetings from Dublin! We are looking forward to the upcoming *Pilgrimage for Young Mercy Leaders* which will be held from 10am, Tuesday 28th July - 5pm, Friday 31st July 2020. This pilgrimage brings together young people, aged 18+, from across the Mercy world.

Thank you to the groups who have pre-registered. If you have not done so, please let me know and I will add your delegation name to the registration form as an option to choose from. We are now asking that every participant (including accompanying staff) completes the online registration form available at this link:

<https://forms.gle/8h6X4xDeWFsrstQg9>

As we have been able to secure some funding for the Youth Leadership Programmes we are offering an early bird registration cost of €250 per person for all participants registered and paid before St Patrick's Day, the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Registration cost after the 17<sup>th</sup> March will be €280 per participant.

Every College delegation, registered will generate one complementary chaperone/mentor registration. If you are bringing a group larger than five please contact me to discuss registration costs for additional chaperones. Once the number of pilgrims/chaperones you are bringing is confirmed, let me know and we will generate an invoice for your group.

Joining us for this year's Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage are the 2019-2020 Mercy Global Action Emerging Leader Fellows. These women, from across the Mercy World, reflect different professional and educational backgrounds, and life experiences. Throughout the past year they have explored Mercy and Justice through intensive dialogue, deep listening, personal and communal reflection, and critical analysis. Their unique contributions and shared experiences will be presented in the form of keynote presentations. Pilgrims will receive firsthand accounts of the Mercy Global Justice areas in action and have the opportunity to engage, build on and develop their own capacities as Mercy Leaders.

An outline of the programme follows and we are delighted to include a visit to Coolock House this year. At Coolock, Sr Sheila Carney rsm will give a keynote presentation and the pilgrims will have a tour of this important place in the story of Catherine McAuley.

Thank you for helping to make this pilgrimage possible and if you have questions or there is other information that would be useful to you, please contact me at [heritage@mercyinternational.ie](mailto:heritage@mercyinternational.ie).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Anna Nicholls".

Anna Nicholls rsm  
Leader, Heritage and Spirituality



**Programme Description**

Students and young adults from across the globe will travel to Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland. These Mercy pilgrims will undertake their journey in the light of the story of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Participants will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

- **Past:** As they explore Mercy International Centre and Coolock House, pilgrims will hear the story of Catherine McAuley anew in the House she founded. They will learn about her spirituality and grow in understanding of the rich heritage of the Sisters of Mercy.
- **Present:** Pilgrims will gain a profound sense of the Mercy spirit alive today. They will be challenged by engaging speakers and will encounter the Mercy charism in the diversity of their fellow delegates.
- **Future:** As they reflect on their experiences in Dublin, pilgrims will come to know themselves as Mercy leaders. They will return home enriched to strive for justice and Mercy, with the courage that Catherine demonstrated.

**Programme Content**

All participants will be able to spend time in Catherine’s original foundation house: praying in the chapel she built, walking across the floorboards of the room where she died, and exploring the heritage treasures housed at Mercy International Centre. There will be keynote addresses on leadership and a global perspective on mercy mission, a variety of workshops, discussions and meaningful rituals. A visit to Coolock House and a walking tour of Catherine's Dublin are included in the programme.

**Programme Times**

Date	Begin Time	End Time	Meals Included
Tuesday 28 July	10:00 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Packed lunch & afternoon snack
Wednesday 29 July	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch; evening meal
Thursday 30 July	9:00 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch; evening meal
Friday 31 July	9:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch

**Location of Pilgrimage**

The Pilgrimage will be held at Mercy International Centre (64a Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2) the original house built by Catherine McAuley. Mercy International Centre is well serviced by Dublin Buses 38, 38A/B, 39, 39A, 70 which stop immediately in front of Mercy International Centre.

**Accommodation**

Delegations are responsible for securing their own accommodation. Hotels and hostels in City Centre are accessible by Dublin Bus (or up to 2 mile walk). A City Centre hostel is Abigail's Hostel ([www.abigailshostel.com](http://www.abigailshostel.com)). Hotels near MIC include Lansdowne Hotel ([www.lansdownehotel.ie](http://www.lansdownehotel.ie)) and Mespil Hotel ([www.mespilhotel.com](http://www.mespilhotel.com)). B&B or self-catering apartments near MIC include Latchfords ([www.latchfords.ie](http://www.latchfords.ie)) and Baggot Court ([www.baggotcourt.com](http://www.baggotcourt.com)).

**Pilgrimage Attire**

Respectable casual attire is acceptable. Summertime peak temperatures range between 18°C (65°F) and 24°C (75°F) with lows between 6 and 10°C (mid-40s–50°F). Expect rain at any time.

### **Taize Prayer and Irish Céilí**

There will be Taize Prayer on Wednesday evening, and an Irish Céilí on Thursday evening. For those not familiar with a Céilí, the participants will be taught some Irish dances and enjoy Irish Music, this was a highlight at the pilgrimage last year for many participants.

### **Programme Fee**

The fee of €250 per person is payable for earlybird registration and payment that is received before 17 March. The cost will be €280 per person for registrations and payments received after then. One complementary chaperone registration will be granted for every delegation. Contact Anna Nicholls to discuss chaperone costs for groups larger than five. The fee covers all programme costs, and meals as stipulated above. Most hotels/hostels provide breakfast, but check with your accommodation site to ensure your fee is for 'bed and breakfast' and not 'room only.' Tuesday evening is a free evening to enjoy Dublin, and no evening meal is provided that day.

### **Photography and Video Recording**

Communications personnel will be taking photographs and video images of the pilgrimage, and will be making some of those available to the public to tell the story of this pilgrimage. This may include newspaper articles; electronic or print newsletters, leaflets and posters; TV news clips; videos; Facebook postings; or similar media used in support of the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy International Association. There is a consent question as part of the registration form.

### **Updates on Pilgrimage through Facebook and [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)**

Regular updates on this pilgrimage will be posted on our Facebook page and on Mercy International Association's website. To follow us on Facebook like us at <https://www.facebook.com/MercyLeaders/>

### **Transport to/from Airport**

Few City Centre hotels and hostels provide airport shuttles, but *Dublin Bus 747* ([www.dublinbus.ie/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services](http://www.dublinbus.ie/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services)) or *Aircoach* ([www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)) will bring your delegation to a location within walking distance of your hotel/hostel. The cost varies around €6-8 one-way, and €12 for round-trip/return ticket.

### **Visas**

Most participants in this pilgrimage will not need to apply for a visa in advance of your arrival in Ireland. Mercy International Association will alert your delegation leader if you are coming from a country that needs to apply for a visa prior to arrival. If you are a citizen of a country other than the country in which you are currently living, please check the visa requirements for entering Ireland:

[http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving\\_country/moving\\_to\\_ireland/coming\\_to\\_live\\_in\\_ireland/visa\\_requirements\\_for\\_entering\\_ireland.html](http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_to_ireland/coming_to_live_in_ireland/visa_requirements_for_entering_ireland.html)

### **Currency Issues**

Monetary transactions in Ireland are in Euros. If your pre- or post-conference touring includes time in the North of Ireland, the currency there is the British Sterling Pound. Most vendors accept MasterCard or Visa.

### **Data Protection**

Increased regulations in the EU regarding the collection and retention of data came into effect in May 2018. MIA collects the data on the form for the purposes of organising the conference. After the conference we appreciate retaining the names and contact details of participants for archival purposes. There is a consent question as part of the registration form.

## **Programme Content Overview**

### **Tuesday**

Morning - Welcome, introductions, opening ritual, icebreaker type activities

Afternoon - Tour of the House of Mercy, *In God Alone: The Story of Catherine McAuley* film and workshop

### **Wednesday**

Morning - visit to Coolock House, input on “the formative years” for Catherine from Sr Sheila Carney and tour

Afternoon - Walking tour/activities around Catherine’s Dublin

Evening - Mercy Evening Prayer

### **Thursday**

Morning - Keynote presentations with Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellows (MELF) facilitated by Sr Angela Reed and Colleen Swain from MIA Mercy Global Action.

Afternoon - 3 workshops - Mercy Global Presence, Discernment, Mindfulness/Meditation

Evening - Ceili

### **Friday**

Morning - Panel Discussions with MELF Leaders

Weaving the three days previously together. What emerges? What is mercy calling us to today?

Afternoon - Personal reflection, where to next, evaluations

Closing Mass

### **Additional Questions**

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact Anna Nicholls rsm at

[heritage@mercyinternational.ie](mailto:heritage@mercyinternational.ie)