

### **Celebration of Final Vows on 11 August 2023**

Dear Sisters and Associates,

It is with great joy that Sr. Patricia Bell and the Community in Bermondsey and the Leadership Team of the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, invite you to join with us as Sr. Nicole Keenan makes her Final Profession, on Friday 11 August at 11 am in the Most Holy Trinity Church Dockhead, Bermondsey, London via the live - stream link which is attached below.

Nicole came to England from New Zealand in 2005. She was working in London and attended the local parish in Dockhead, where she will make her Final Profession.

Ten years later, her Mercy journey began when she received an email from her cousin in NZ asking if she wanted to learn more about her ancestors.

They met in Birmingham and visited sites where her family had lived. They visited St Mary's Convent, Handsworth as part of their exploration.

Nicole's ancestor, Lydia Wareing had married John Hardman. Across the road from where they lived, they donated land and £3000 to build the convent.

His daughter Julianna Hardman entered the Sisters of Mercy and completed her formation in Dublin with Catherine McAuley.

Catherine accompanied them back to Handsworth and appointed Julianna as the first Mother Superior at the end of their first month.

When Nicole returned to Bermondsey and told the Sisters in the parish of her experience, she could not believe it when they explained that they too were Sisters of Mercy.

Sometime later, the parish advertised a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and it was here that Nicole felt aware of her call and her discernment began. As they say the rest is history!

Eight years later, Nicole will be making her Final Profession with the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, on the 11 August 2023 at 11 am, in the parish where it all began.

In the coming weeks, let us keep Nicole and her family in prayer, as she prepares for this special day.

Sr. Bernadette Holmes

*(On behalf of the Community and the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy)*