

Learning about our Mercy History

Recently all Year 9 students at Carmel College in Auckland, New Zealand, (www.carmel.school.nz) participated in two days focusing on the story of Mercy: the beginnings of Mercy in Ireland, the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy to New Zealand from Carlow, and the stories associated with the Carmel College site.

Sr. Mary Neven (pictured with students) donned a habit to take on the persona of Mother Cecilia Maher, and joined a staff member who played the role of Bishop Pompallier as they shared with students the challenges of the long boat journey from Carlow, Ireland, to Auckland, New Zealand in 1850.

Over the course of the two days, the students engaged in a number of activities.

With another staff member, the students learnt some embroidery skills, remembering how Catherine McAuley had taught women such skills

In another session they learnt about Thomas and Mary Boynton, in whose house the first Mass was offered in New Zealand in 1838.

Other sessions gave students opportunities to learn new forms of prayer, including a grace for before meals in Te Reo Maori.