

## **Feast of Our Lady of Mercy – September 2023**

***Welcome to the circle of prayer:*** (Mary Wickham)

*Creator God, Maker and Source of Mercy ... **glory and praise***

*Jesus, exemplar and champion of Mercy ... **glory and praise***

*Spirit, artist and animator of Mercy ... **glory and praise***

*Mary, bearer of God's Mercy... **glory and praise***

*Catherine, channel of God's Mercy... **glory and praise***



At our very beginnings, we were placed under the protection of Mary, Mother of Mercy. Providentially, on her feast in 1827 the House of Mercy opened on Baggot Street. Furthermore, the Original Rule of the Sisters of Mercy exhorted the sisters, as follows:

*As this congregation is under her special protection ...the sisters shall always have the warmest and most affectionate devotion to (Mary, the Mother of God) regarding her in a special manner as their mother and the great model they are obliged to imitate ...*

It is in this spirit that we celebrate September 24 every year as our special feast, a day to remember and celebrate Mary under one of Catherine's favorite titles. Let us take time to reflect on the graced connection between Mary, bearer of God's Mercy, Catherine, channel of God's Mercy and ourselves, Catherine's daughters living Mercy today.

### **Readings:**

*God has done great things for me ...God's mercy is from generation to generation*  
(Mary's Song of Praise - Luke 1: 49-50)

*If all are bound to love and honor the holy Mother of God, how much more we, who are her own chosen children, bearing her name and that of her sweet attribute – Mercy*  
(Catherine McAuley)

*We ought to relate to Miriam of Nazareth as a partner in hope, in the company of all the holy women and men who have gone before us. This can help us reclaim the power of her memory for the flourishing of women, for the poor and all suffering people. It can help us to draw on the energy of her example for a deeper relationship with the living God and stronger care for the world. When the Christian community does Marian theology this way our eyes are opened to sacred visions for a different future. We become empowered to be voices of hope in this difficult world. Like Mary, we will be rejoicing in God our Savior and announcing the justice that is to come.*

(Elizabeth Johnson)

- What “great things” has God been doing in my life?
- How am I proclaiming God’s mercy in my daily life?
- How can I /we be a voice of hope in today’s world?

**Prayer Response:** (Mary Wickham)

*Into the mercy of Jesus your child,  
into the mercy which is the wondrous womb of God, into the mercy  
which insists “alive is the Spirit, alive and awake and waiting,”*

*Into this mercy – O girl of Nazareth, O woman of Calvary,  
O matriarch of Pentecost –  
Into this mercy coax our need, release our enslavements,  
lead our fears, invite our dreams.*

*Woman of Mercy - who knew within your womb the first  
limberings of the One who is Mercy –  
teach and lead and free and find with us and for us the place  
where sit the ones who weep and starve and ail and mourn  
and do not own more than an inkling of future.*

*Let us be with them and for them, a word, a way and a  
flashpoint of that mercy.*

*O great woman, O mother, our sister in Jesus:  
Mary, this, today, for this time, we pray.*



Let us listen deeply to the words of Mary’s Hymn of Praise, the Magnificat, as we bring our prayer to a close ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNZa3rBwW5g><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StFAiPzHfIY>