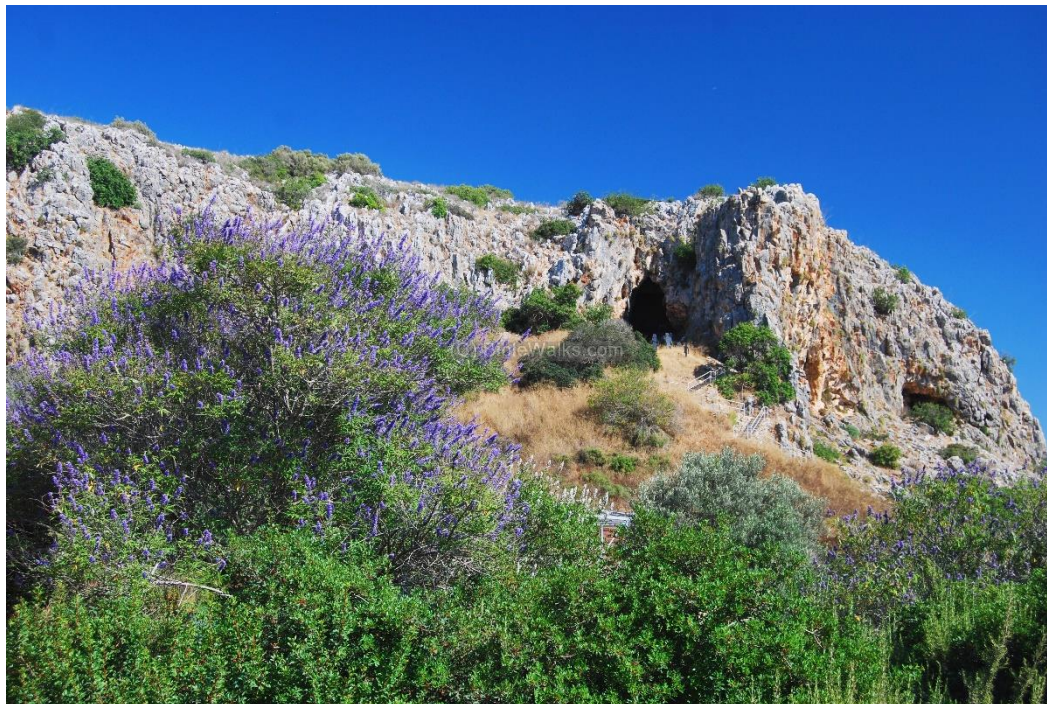


## Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - July 16

### Call to Prayer

Today, July 16, is a special day for many Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland. We gather to celebrate in prayer and reflection. May God's Spirit be with us as we take these moments to think about what this day means to us. Sr. Francis Creedon, foundress of the first Mercy Convent beyond Ireland and England, died on July 15, 1855, nearly 170 years ago. We remember her and all Sisters of Mercy who followed her, the young women who came from Ireland to join the Sisters of Mercy as well as all those who came after her. We remember them and this day.



Mount Carmel is located about 9 miles (15 km.) east of the Mediterranean Sea in the Carmel Mountain Range, which is in the northern part of Israel. It's also about 28 miles (44 km.) southwest of the Sea of Galilee.

### Feast of Mary and Day of Reception and Profession

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or Virgin of Carmel, is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early to mid-13th century. They built in the midst of their hermitages a chapel which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.

Each summer Sisters of Mercy were received into the novitiate or made profession of vows on this date. It was an exciting and joyfilled day often marking the end of a retreat or institute, the receiving of the habit, making first or final profession or reception of the silver ring symbolizing perpetual commitment. Most of us remember the crowded chapel at Littledale and the family circles in the garden following the ceremonies. July 16 was a very special day. (Video of ceremonies 1965 21 mins)  
<https://vimeo.com/692656528/111d08100b?share=copy>

## Prayer

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley

<https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/3686ae4f18/091204-1706-584c600a.mp3>

My God, I am yours for all eternity.  
Teach me to cast my whole self  
into the arms of your Providence  
with the most lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.  
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,  
that whatever you ordain or permit may always be acceptable to me.  
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;  
suffer nothing to afflict me but sin,  
nothing to delight me, but the hope of coming to the possession of You  
my God, in your own everlasting kingdom. Amen.

## Readings and Reflection

Sacred Scripture 1 Kings 19:11-13

### Constitutions

God fashions the hearts and lives of those whom he has chosen, calls them to respond by the total dedication of their lives, and consecrates them for service in the Church. #2

By public profession of the evangelical counsels, the sisters commit themselves to live more fully their baptismal consecration and to participate in a special way in the redemptive mission of Christ. #3

The sisters are mindful that the Church has commissioned them as members of a religious community to witness to the transcendent value of the vowed life and to keep alive the charism of mercy entrusted to the Congregation. #4

### Laudato Si'

The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet... The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor. (#48)

## Prayer

We have come before you Lord today, with grateful hearts for having called us to be your own close followers. A privilege, we know that we do not deserve, but we accept it whole heartedly and humbly. As we bow down before you today, we acknowledge your silent presence in our lives and in our world, that has energized and sustained our vocation, to love you, your people, and all of your creation. We delight in our call, Lord, to be instruments of your peace, mercy and love. We cherish your Love, which moves us to be witnesses of your presence in our broken and war-torn world. Lord, today, accept our gratitude, weak as it may be; our poor love and our broken lives as we bow down before you in adoration and humble submission to your will. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Amen



Here I Come to You,  
O'Hare and Cox.mp3

**Closing Song** Here I Come to You (Briege O'Hare and Marie Cox)