



### Prayers for the Sick

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and caregivers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (grandnephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover), Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), Sister Theresa Boland, George Bradbury (husband of Barbara Bradbury), Jim Wakeford (nephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), Mike Kelly (husband of Anna Kelly), Anne Walsh, Sister Maureen O'Keefe and Michelle Furlong.

(If you wish to have your name or another person's name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know @ [drover.sharon@yahoo.ca](mailto:drover.sharon@yahoo.ca).)



### *Prayer for the Sick*

Through the Intercession of  
Catherine McAuley

God of Love and Mercy,  
You inspired Catherine McAuley,  
To serve your Son by responding

To the needs of her time.  
Moved by her care for the Sick,  
We ask that through Her Prayers  
You reach out with Your Healing  
Love

And restore them to full health  
We ask this in complete  
Confidence through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son  
Amen.

Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us  
Amen.

## Happy Birthday Wishes to....



Photo by [Robert Anderson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Geraldine Vicars – May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Marilyn Stack – May 11<sup>th</sup>  
Marie Higgins – May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Sr. Monica Hickey – May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Gerri Stapleton – May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Lois Craig – May 28<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Hawley – May 29<sup>th</sup>



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## Light a Candle

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.

## Notes from the Associates/Sisters

### ITEMS OF INTEREST



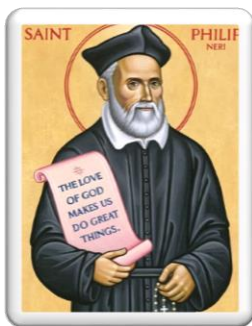
### *Mercy Wellsprings*

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, Serenity, and peace ... From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it.

*Misericordiae vultus #2, #25*



## St. Philip Neri



St. Philip Neri (1515–1595) was a 16th-century Italian priest known as the "Apostle of Rome" and a major figure in the Counter-Reformation.

Born in Florence, he moved to Rome, where he lived as a layman, studying and doing missionary work before being ordained in 1551. He became known for his ability to connect with people of all social levels and for reforming the city's religious life.

He established a community in a large room above a church for prayer, music, and discussion, which led to the name "Oratorians".

Philip was known for extreme humility, often advising to "think little of being thought little of". He was known for mystical experiences, including a "dilation of the heart" during a vision in 1544, interpreted as a special gift of love for God.

Philip was a key reformer who focused on spiritual joy, personal conversion, and practical service rather than severe asceticism. He encouraged frequent Communion and prayerful study.

He died in 1595 on the feast of Corpus Christi. He was canonized in 1622 and his feast day is May 26th.



*"If you wish to strengthen your confidence in God still more often recall the loving way in which He has acted toward you, and how mercifully He has tried to bring you out of your sinful life to break your attachment to the things of earth and draw you to His love."*

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



## ***The Archival Moment***

*The Archival  
Moment is contributed by Sister Charlotte  
Fitzpatrick.*

### **An Archival Moment – Sister Margaret Mary Collins**

Agatha Collins, daughter of Anne Hickey and William Collins, was born in St. Kyran's, Placentia Bay on August 20, 1888. She received her elementary education in St. Kyran's and her high school education at the Presentation Convent school in Placentia. She then spent ten years teaching in Petit Forte and Paradise, where according to her obituary, "she proved herself the kindest of teachers and where she was a light and example to all."

At the age of 28, Agatha entered the Sisters of Mercy on Military Road in January, 1916 and was received into the novitiate as Sister Margaret Mary on July 16 of that same year. She and her two companions, Sister M. Paul Ryall

and Sister M. Patricia Hogan, were the first novices to occupy the General Novitiate at Littledale which had been established at Amalgamation in August of 1916.

Following her profession in 1918 Sister Margaret Mary joined the Mercy community in St. George's, which was then in the throes of the terrible epidemic, the Spanish flu. She and her sisters were quick to respond to the needs of the people, attending to the sick in the temporary hospital located in the Court House and visiting the sick in their homes, bringing food and clothing and washing and dressing the children.

Sister Margaret Mary was a member of the founding community of St. Teresa's Convent, along with Sisters M. Benignus Mallowney, M. Anthony Wade, M. Constance Travers and M. Clarissa Reddy. While the Sisters of Mercy assumed the administration of St. Teresa's school in 1944, the convent was not ready for occupancy until February of 1945. In the intervening months, the new community lived at St. Clare's Convent.

During her thirty-three years as a Sister of Mercy, Sister Margaret Mary was missioned to a number of convents in the city and around the island – Curling, Burin, Bay Bulls, St. Bride’s, St. Georges, St. Joseph’s, St. Teresa’s. The last year of her life was spent at St. Michael’s Convent, Belvedere.

Sister Margaret Mary died on March 12, 1949 at the age of 61. Her obituary notes that wherever she went “she worked with the same zest, enthusiasm and self-effacement, her one concern being the happiness and progress of her pupils, to whose spiritual and temporal well-being she lent an influence that extended far beyond the classroom.

Following Sister M. Margaret’s funeral liturgy, the senior pupils of St. Joseph’s school and of St. Michael’s Orphanage joined the funeral procession to the sisters’ cemetery in Belvedere to honor a revered teacher and mentor.



# Hope During the Uncertainties of Life

May 1, 2026

*Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter*

**Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” [John 14:1–2](#)**

We all need hope, especially in the face of life’s uncertainties. The inspired virtue of hope is much more than wishful thinking. It’s a supernatural gift by which we are strengthened to persevere through challenges, trusting in God’s promises and His fidelity. Hope sustains us, even in the darkest and most painful moments.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers His disciples—and us—the antidote to fear and uncertainty: hope rooted in faith. His words at the Last Supper are intended to strengthen the Apostles for the sorrowful events of His Passion. Though they did not yet fully understand what was about

to unfold, Jesus gave them this loving command: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” In the light of the Resurrection, imagine the Apostles reflecting on these words. They would have recalled the confusion and despair they experienced during Jesus’ arrest, crucifixion, and burial. But after encountering the risen Christ, their sorrow turned to joy, and their doubt to unshakable faith. In hindsight, they would have realized they didn’t need to let their hearts be troubled—they should have trusted in His promise.

The Apostles’ journey from fear and guilt to hope and strength is a reminder for us all. We, too, can look back on moments when we failed to trust in God during painful times. Despair, one of the most painful human experiences, extinguishes hope and leaves us feeling abandoned. But even in our failures, God is present, ready to transform our weakness into supernatural hope. By humbly confessing our lack of trust, we open our hearts to His healing grace and allow Him to prepare us for future trials.

Just as the Apostles grew in hope through their encounter with the risen Christ, so too did Mary, the Mother of Hope, model unwavering

faith even in the midst of profound sorrow. Standing at the foot of the Cross, her heart was pierced with sorrow, but she remained firm in faith and trust. Her hope was based on her certainty that God’s plan would be fulfilled through her Son’s Passion. In times of trial, turn to Mary, who will guide you in placing your trust in her Son and in the eternal promises of His love. Reflect today on Jesus’ loving command: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” He has prepared a place for you in His Father’s house—a place where there will be no more sin and suffering. By keeping your eyes fixed on this eternal promise, you can overcome the fears and struggles of this life, trusting that God’s providence will guide you. Trust that He is already preparing a place for you in His Father’s house, and let this hope sustain you, transforming every sorrow into joy and every trial into a step closer to the eternal happiness that awaits you.

*Lord of perfect hope, at times I allow fear and suffering to overwhelm me, leading me to despair. Please give me the grace to listen and respond to Your loving invitation. May I never allow my heart to be troubled by life’s circumstances and crosses, but instead, have faith in You and Your promises of everlasting life. Jesus, I trust in You.*



*From Kitty's  
Kitchen*

### ***Funeral Potato Chicken Casserole***



#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 bunch green onions, sliced, divided
- 2 (10.5 ounce) cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup minced dried onion

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 (30 ounce) package frozen shredded hash browns, partially thawed
- 1 cup finely crushed cornflakes
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

#### **Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (180 degrees C).

1. Reserve 3 tablespoons green onions for garnish and set aside.
2. Combine remaining green onions, cream of chicken soup, sour cream, Cheddar cheese, dried onion, salt, pepper, chicken, and hash browns in a large bowl and mix well.
3. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 9x13-inch baking dish.
4. Stir together cornflakes and butter in a small bowl until well blended and sprinkle mixture evenly over the casserole.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until browned, bubbly and

heated throughout, 50 to 60 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with reserved green onions.



From Kitty's  
Library

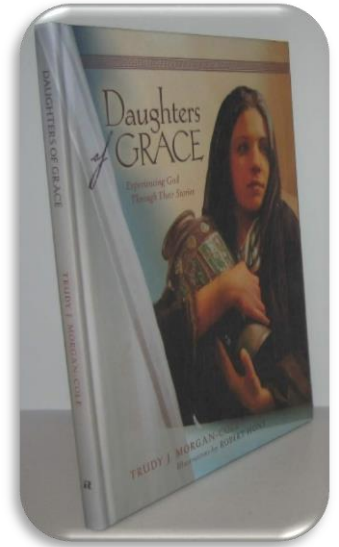
A Good Read...

*Daughters of Grace: Experiencing God Through Their Stories*

Author: Trudy Morgan Cole

Trudy J. Morgan-Cole draws back the "dusty curtains of time" to offer an intimate look at ordinary women from the Bible—like **Eve**, **Esther**, **Mary**, and **Martha**—who experienced God's grace through the mundane and exceptional moments of their lives. Morgan-Cole portrays these women as relatable figures who laughed, cried, and struggled, emphasizing that every one of them was valuable in God's eye.

They were just ordinary women! Their lives crept along moment by moment, the mundane mixed with the exceptional. Yet bits and pieces of their lives were chronicled in the world's most enduring Book. What made them so unique... so special? They were like you. They laughed and cried, struggled and triumphed--they were talented and they were inadequate. And who knows? One of their stories might be your story.



We strongly encourage you to go to our mercy website: [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org) and have a look at the ASSOCIATE section. There are many new additions, lots of photos and some videos. Should you have any issues getting onto the website, please let us know and we will provide assistance.

We hope that you will enjoy and be encouraged to keep working for the growth of our Mercy Associate relationship.



## **Key Canadian Facts and Events in May:**

**Dutch Heritage Day (May 5):** Commemorates the role of Canadian troops in the liberation of the Netherlands during WWII and the special bond between the two nations, often celebrated during the Ottawa Tulip Festival.

**Red Dress Day (May 5):** Also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), where people wear red to honor those lost.

**Mother's Day (May 10)**  
**In Canada and the United States, Mother's Day 2026 falls on Sunday May 10th. The holiday is celebrated annually on the second Sunday of May to honour and remember our mothers, motherhood, and the**

**maternal bonds that have shaped our lives.**

**Founder of Mother's Day: Anna Jarvis established Mother's Day to honor her mother, holding the first official service in 1908 in West Virginia.**

**United Kingdom: Celebrated as "Mothering Sunday" on the fourth Sunday of Lent (March 15, 2026).**

**Arab World: Most countries (like Egypt) celebrate on the first day of spring, March 21.**

**France: Typically the last Sunday in May, unless it coincides with Pentecost.**

**Victoria Day: Celebrated on the Monday preceding May 25th (May 18 in 2026), this federal holiday honors Queen Victoria's birthday and serves as the unofficial start of summer, featuring fireworks and the opening of many summer attractions.**

**National Patriots' Day (Journée nationale des Patriotes):** Observed in Quebec on the same day as Victoria Day to commemorate the 1837-1838 rebellion against the British Crown.

### **The Canadian Tulip Festival:**

Held annually in Ottawa, this is the world's largest tulip festival. It features over a million blooming tulips, originally gifted by the Dutch royal family as a thank-you for sanctuary during WWII.

**Iceberg Alley:** In Newfoundland and Labrador, May is the prime time to see massive icebergs floating down "Iceberg Alley" as the sea ice thaws.

**Whale Watching:** May marks the beginning of the whale-watching season on both coasts, particularly in Newfoundland, where you can often spot whales and icebergs simultaneously.

**Spring Runoff:** As mountain snow melts, May is a premier month for whitewater rafting and kayaking in regions like the Rockies and the Slave River.



“I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand.”

– St. Anselm of Canterbury



### **Mental Health Awareness**

**Month:** Organized by the [Canadian Mental Health Association \(CMHA\)](#), this month focuses on reducing stigma and fostering positive dialogue.

### **Cultural Heritage**

**Months:** May is designated as Asian Heritage Month and Canadian Jewish Heritage Month across Canada, recognizing the contributions of these communities.



### **Meditation**

*“St. Augustine says, that to prevent the sheep from seeking assistance by her cries, the wolf seizes her by the neck, and thus securely carries her away and devours her. The Devil acts in a similar manner with the sheep of*

*Jesus Christ. After having induced them to yield to sin, he seizes them by the throat, that they may not confess their guilt; and thus he securely brings them to Hell. For those who have sinned grievously, there is no means of salvation but the confession of their sins.”*

- St. Alphonsus Liguori, p. 138, An excerpt from The Sermons of St. Alphonsus Liguori



### Pause for Thought....



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### Poetry Pause



### ***My Mother Kept a Garden***

My mother kept a garden  
a garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
that gave my life its start.  
She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem.  
And when the winds and rain  
came  
she protected me enough,  
But not too much because she  
knew  
I'd need to stand up strong and  
tough.  
Her constant good example  
always taught me right from  
wrong,  
Markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.  
I am my mother's garden  
I am her legacy,  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.

~author unknown~

## the LAST WORD

*”The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us ~ and oh what a blessing ~ it should make all things else pass into nothing. All laugh and play together, not one cold stiff soul appears. From the day they enter, all reserve of an ungracious kind leaves them. This is the Spirit of the order indeed ~ the true Spirit of Mercy ~ flowing on us ~ that notwithstanding our unworthiness, God never seems to visit us with angry punishment...”*

- Catherine McAuley, To Sister M Elizabeth Moore. Carlow. April 12, 1841.