

Mercy Day

24 September 2026

Opening Prayer

God of air, water, earth, and sky,
challenge us to be light for the world in which we live. May we be constantly attentive to the cry of Earth:

to the call for climate change

to the plight of those who suffer drought, floods, and other extreme weather events

to those who suffer poverty and homelessness

Help us to walk lightly on our Earth: to plant, to preserve, to recycle. to nurture.

May we respond each day to the Mercy call to live simply and to fight for justice and for all.

Amen.

(Carolyn Thompson 2021)

A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:31, 2:3):

God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good... God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

A reading from the Book of History:

A few thousand years ago, the love story began between God and the People of Israel. Among other things, the Bible taught about the goodness of the whole cosmos and the importance of contemplative rest. We were invited to enjoy and be thankful for this created world that is “very good”.

About 2,000 years ago, the Creator became a creature. The very “Word” through whom all was created “became flesh”. The womb of a young Jewish woman was the setting for the incredible mystery of the Incarnation. A few decades later, that Creator-and-creature was nailed to a cross, redeeming the whole cosmos – ranging from the most distant stars to the tiniest insects in our midst.

In recent times, we have learned to look at everything God has made with awe-inspiring detail – ranging from the telescopic detail of astronomical wonders to the microscopic detail of biological wonders.

Yet, in the last few decades, instead of contemplating how everything is “very good” and instead of letting the Earth rest, too many of us have seen how everything is “very exploitable”. Driven by greed and selfishness, we have ravaged our forests, polluted our

waters, poisoned our soil, disrupted our climate, and decimated non-human populations, while also trashing the most vulnerable among us humans. We raise a heartfelt cry of lament and repentance for this sacrilege.

Now, more than ever, we uplift the sacredness of all Creation. Now, more than ever, we honor God as Creator. Now, more than ever, we celebrate the cosmos' web of matter and the planet's web of life.

V. As God saw, we also see that everything is good, very good.

R. All Creation is good, very good. Praise be to God!



Mercy in Our World Today

The anniversary year, from **Mercy Day 2026 to Mercy Day 2027**, invites us to remember our shared heritage, celebrate the ways in which Mercy continues to flourish throughout the world, and look with hope towards the future.

On September 24, 1827 Catherine McAuley opened the House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland.

Commitment

We will not close the Door of Mercy.

We will stand as keepers, attuned, disposed.

We will hold the door ajar for the desperate and the disruptive,

the stray, the strange, the wounded wise and the child too soon old.

They are looking for the door,
waiting by the door,
hoping for the door,
and we must, with them, and for them, keep faith.

We will not close the door of Mercy.

Mary Wickham RSM

(Light a Candle)

Leader: Let us recommit ourselves to living the Gospel in the way of Catherine McAuley

Reader: Mercy people aim to live and keep alive the charism and spirituality of Catherine McAuley and openly share her vision with others

Response: We are called to be mercy people and we accept the responsibility to make a difference in our time, inspired by the life of Catherine McAuley.

Reader: Mercy people expressed their commitment by acting to bring about justice and peace

Response: We are called to be Mercy people and we accept the responsibility to make a difference in our time.

Reader: Open to the power and urging of the Spirit Mercy people endeavour to respond with compassion to the challenges and needs of the times

Response: We are called to be mercy people and we accept the responsibility to make a difference in our time

Prayer for Blessing

May the God of mercy continue to lead us and inspire us. May the spirit of Catherine be a light and a joy for the way. May the compassion of Jesus be our guide and our measure. In the name of the Trinity of Love: Creator, Word and Spirit. Now and always. Amen.