



**Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa  
Sisters of Mercy New Zealand**

## **Mass/Liturgy Suggestions for Mercy Day**

**Opening procession** – school banner, Mercy candle, poster/kete with captions naming Mercy Values.

### **Speaker 1: Introduction and welcome**

Haere mai. Welcome everyone to this liturgy/Mass to celebrate Mercy Day. This is an important week for all of us who belong to schools founded by the Sisters of Mercy. Today is Mercy Day and it is the feast of Our Lady of Mercy. It is a special day to give thanks to God through Mary for the gift of mercy.

### **Speaker 2**

It is also a day to remember and give thanks for the life of Catherine McAuley. On this day in 1827 Catherine's House of Mercy in Baggot St in Dublin was opened. Catherine would have been delighted to have a place where her work with the poor could be done.

### **Speaker 3: Holding candle – another child with matches to light the candle**

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of mercy that burns in our schools and in our hearts as we celebrate our Mercy Charism. We remember the sisters who first lit it in our schools and all the teachers and children who have kept it burning through the years until today. (Place the candle on the stand and light it).



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### Opening Hymn – A hymn your school knows to honour Mary Penitential Rite

Jesus, you came to show us the power of God's mercy  
Lord have mercy  
Jesus you showed mercy to everyone you met  
Christ have mercy  
Jesus, you show mercy to us when we fail to love  
Lord have mercy

### Psalm – Suggestions:

My Spirit Sings (Magnificat Lk. 1:46-55)  
from Michael Mangan's album "Forever I will Sing" (Track 14)

### First Reading

The first reading is from the first letter of Peter

Blessed be our God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who because of the gift of his great mercy, has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through his resurrection Jesus gained for all people an inheritance. This inheritance will last forever and will not fade away. It is reserved for us in heaven.

The Word of God



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### Gospel

#### The Gospel is adapted from St Matthew's Gospel

Then God will say to those judged ready for heaven on arrival:

“Come and enjoy the kingdom I have prepared for you.

For I forgot my school pens and books, and you shared yours with me.

I was new in your school, and you asked me to sit with you  
in the in the playground.

I needed new soccer boots and you loaned me your spare pair.

I couldn't understand the maths and you explained it to me patiently.

I was in trouble and you stood beside me, you spoke up for me  
and showed me mercy and compassion.

Then the righteous will ask,

“When did we do these things for you?”

And God will answer them,

“Just as you did it for any one of my family, you did it for me.”



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### The Word of God

Prayers of the Faithful

**The RESPONSE is: Merciful God hear our prayer**

For people who show mercy in our world – we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**

For the model of mercy and kindness Catherine McAuley is for us –  
we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**

For the Sisters of Mercy on whose courage, hard work, generosity and wisdom  
our schools were built – we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**

That we who have the responsibility to carry on the mercy charism in our  
schools today may show it in our words and actions – we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**

That Mary Mother of Mercy may bring our school communities before God –  
we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**

That all those who have worked in Mercy schools and are now with God,  
may enjoy the fruits of their lives lived in mercy – we give thanks and pray

**RESPONSE Merciful God hear our prayer**



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### **Offertory Gifts – some suggestions**

Catherine's Picture (available from Mercy Schools website)

**Children's Suscipe**

**Some sayings of Catherine**

**School photos** – old and new

Statue of Mary

A symbol from your school charism

A cup and saucer (for a comfortable cup of tea)

### **Communion Reflection**

Catherine's Children's Suscipe (available from Mercy Schools website)–  
read together on a screen

Add some images of children and some mercy symbols on the screen  
(symbols available from Mercy Schools website)

### **Recessional Hymn**

The Circle of Mercy (available on Mercy Schools website)