

Official Prayer for the 200th Anniversary of the First House of Mercy

24 September 1827 – 24 September 2027

Gracious and ever-living God,
on this sacred anniversary of
the opening of Catherine McAuley's first House of Mercy
on Baggot Street,
we give thanks for the light that first burned there
two hundred years ago –
a light of welcome, compassion, and courageous love.

As we honour Catherine's vision,
open our hearts to the same daring trust in Your Providence
that moved her to respond to the needs of her time:
to shelter the vulnerable,
to lift the burdened,
to teach with patience and tenderness,
and to heal with reverence for every human dignity.

Strengthen in us the spirit of Mercy –
bold in service,
steadfast in justice,
joyful in hope,
and ever-ready to accompany those
who stand at the edges of society.

Bless all who have carried the mission of Mercy
throughout these two centuries –
the Sisters of Mercy,
Mercy Associates,
Partners-in-ministry,
and all who continue Catherine's work
through prayer, presence, and compassionate action.

As this third century of Mercy begins,
renew our commitment to be
living witnesses of Your loving-kindness
in our world so in need of healing.
May our lives echo Catherine's enduring call:
that Mercy be shown,
Mercy be spoken,
Mercy be lived.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
source of all Mercy,
and in the grace of the Spirit
who continues to guide us.

Amen.



200th
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF
Catherine McAuley's
FIRST HOUSE OF MERCY
www.mercyworld.org