



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

Whakanuia Atawhai / Celebrating Mercy

Prayer centre

Cloth, candle, mercy picture/symbol

Introduction

24 September is a very special day in the mercy world. We call it MERCY DAY.
The first House of Mercy was opened in Bagott St, Dublin, on 24 September 1827.
This house offered a safe place for young women and their children to live.
Traditionally, this was the feastday of Mary, the Mother of Mercy.

Prayer

Atawhai mai. Atawhai atu. Mercy received. Mercy given.

We gather to remember that the Sisters of Mercy were the first teachers in our school.
They came here ____ years ago so the families in this area could give their children a Catholic education. One of the special gifts these Sisters brought with them was the spirit of mercy – aroha, compassion, deep caring for others. They were excited to come here and share their gifts with the people of _____.
Like us, they were people of God and they knew lots of stories about Jesus.

Reflection

Here is a story they would have heard often. Listen to it carefully.
What is the message is in this story for us today?

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV):

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Catherine McAuley was the first Sister of Mercy a long, long time ago.
She knew this story because she said something very similar to the sisters:

**Me whakakā to wairua kia kite a iwi katoa
You should be a shining lamp, giving light to all around you**

Waiata / himene

Karakia

Song or hymn that holds mercy eg. **Circle of Mercy, These Hands** by Andrew Chinn,
St Teresa's prayer (Christ has no body now but mine ...)