

World Day of the Sick 11 February

World Day of the Sick "is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick, the dying and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in health and aged care within families and communities.

A woman of compassion and action: Reflect on the words below

Mother Aikenhead's thoughts frequently dwelt on the possibility of providing a hospital that welcomed patients of all creeds. A place where the sick could enjoy the benefits of the best medical and surgical skill available and be nursed back to health by the Sisters of her Congregation, This had been her dream for a long time, and the cholera epidemic in 1831 sharpened her desire that "*the poor be given for love what the rich obtain for money*".

Mary Aikenhead's dream 1831



A man of compassion and action

"What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick, not just of curing, but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective, and spiritual dimensions of their lives.

For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention. In a word, love."

Pope Francis 2020



We offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for those who care for them.

Tender and merciful God,
You watch over your creatures with unfailing care,
keep us in the safe embrace of your love.

With your strong right hand,
make whole all who are suffering.

Give them the strength of your power
and the stillness of your peace.

Show your love to them through the
compassionate service of others and heal their every affliction.

Fill those who serve the sick with new hope and
joy for the good they do in your name. Amen.



The day coincides with the
commemoration of
Our Lady of Lourdes

How can we be a person of compassion and action today?



**Mary Aikenhead Heritage Centre,
Harold's Cross, Dublin, Ireland**

Scene 10:

Ward at St Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin.

Dr. Ferrall, the three Sisters of Charity and patients

This was one of Mary Aikenhead's *most extraordinary and lasting achievements*.