



Sisters of Charity of Australia

# Encounters



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION 2023

*We Sisters of Charity, seeking God in all things, commit to a culture of encounter and collaboration.*  
28<sup>th</sup> General Chapter Direction Statement, 2021



*Welcome!*

Dear Sisters and Friends,

As part of my prayer this morning, I used John Michael Talbot's hymn, "Holy is his name." For me it became an invitation into mystery.

As the words and melody touched me, I had an image of Mary Aikenhead praying the Magnificat prayer often in her life. Then I was gifted with the grace of knowing that every Sister of Charity here and around the world has joined in this prayer many, many times in her lifetime.

The joyful praise expressed in this prayer and so many other hymns and images of Mary are a gift to us. They help us to ponder the mystery of this our patronal feast day.

Perhaps as we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption this year we might pray a favourite Marian prayer, hymn or indeed the Magnificat, giving thanks for all we have been given and at the same time remembering all those throughout the world who need our prayer.

Could I invite you to unite in an intention that our hearts be open to mystery, and that we live that mystery with faith and courage as Mary did.

Happy Feast day everyone.

*May we be truly worthy  
children of this beloved  
Mother. May our glorious  
and ever blessed Mother  
obtain powerful graces for  
us, and may she assist all  
our undertakings and guide  
us to the fittest path to  
promote the greater honour  
and glory of God.*

Mary Aikenhead.

*Laureen.*

*In this issue:* Welcome; Our Patronal Feast – a reflection and prayer for Mary's Assumption;  
We Remember our Sisters; Meet James from the Clemente Program; MAM Pilgrimage to Ireland; Stewardship for Mission – Congregational Assembly; Care of our Common Home Document; Bicycles for Chikuni; MAM Conference 2023: *The Love of Christ Impels us: Mary Aikenhead Ministries for our Time.* Farewell Melinda and Kaylene.

*From the moment you said "Yes." the world  
would never be the same ... "*

*Mary Mother of the Poor, Chris Skinner SM.*

Growing up in the late 1950's, I have a memory of my grandmother with the ladies of our parish praying the "Litany of the Blessed Virgin" at devotions on a Sunday night in the church. Led by Monsignor Walsh in his soutane and surplice, the ladies responded "Pray for us", the verse/response style a gentle rhythm that we children joined in with our "Prayfrus", while images of "Mary's house" in heaven flowed through our minds: *Mystical Rose, Tower of Ivory, House of Gold...* we daydreamed our way to benediction after which we were released to play in the yard while the women talked. This was the part assigned to we girls and women in the pre-Vatican II Church.



Looking back now at the titles given to Mary in this litany, they evoke an image of a woman who is other-worldly, untouchable and unattainable except "at the last hour" of our earthly lives.

The second Vatican Council ushered in a new era and a new perception of Mary's place in the Church and the world. At the council's conclusion in November 1964, Pope Paul VI, declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as "Mother of the Church... of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the clergy".

Vatican II gave Mary to the Church, but has our understanding of her place in the Church changed? Many art works still depict Mary as among the clouds surrounded by cherubs as she approaches heaven, but Mary was a woman of her time and culture - Jewish, of Middle Eastern appearance, family member, mother and wife, engaged in the daily tasks of her time.

She responded fully and faithfully to the invitation to participate in enabling God's dream for the whole of creation to unfold... *"the world would never be the same..."* thereafter. Her *Magnificat* announced a new era of God's reign which turns the preconceived standards of today's world upside down.

Elizabeth Johnson writes: *The symbol of Mary serve(s) the life of faith... created from the church's experience of encounter with a gracious God... Mary as mother, virgin, pilgrim of faith, prophet and disciple, all of which ultimately deliver awareness of the graced life and calling of the people of the ekklesia.*

*Truly Our Sister, p98.*

Our baptism makes us all participants in this same graced life and calling. Mary's Assumption reminds us, according to Pope Francis, that: *Mary today sings of hope and rekindles hope in us. ... She is the first creature who, with her whole self, body and soul, victoriously crosses the finish line of heaven.*

*Angelus, Saint Peter's Square, 15 August 2022*

You may like to pray and reflect on a litany of Mary for our time. It is inspired by the song *Mary, Mother of the Poor* and our 2021 Chapter Direction Statement. It can be found in the following pages.

As we remember Mary on this feast of the Assumption and God's invitation to bring hope to generations to come, we stand on the shoulders of Mary Aikenhead, our first five sisters and all who continue to bring hope to our world today.

Let us proclaim boldly, "The world should never be the same!"

Libbey Byrne rsc

# *A Prayer for the Feast of the Assumption ...*

## **Introduction:**

From this day all generations will call me blessed, for you, who are mighty,  
have done great things for me; and holy is your Name.

*Magnificat, Luke 1:48-49*

*To call Mary blessed is to recognize the blessedness of ordinary people who are called to participate in the work of God in our own day.*

*Elizabeth Johnson Truly Our Sister,*

**Take a few moments now to reflect on recent blessings in your own life ...**

**What blessings have you received?**

**How have you been a blessing for others?**

## **Opening Reflection:**

(You may choose to download the song from <https://www.chrisskinner.org.nz/> , Albums *Serenity* or *Pilgrims of the Heart*. You may like to read the words reflectively or use your favourite version of the Magnificat.)

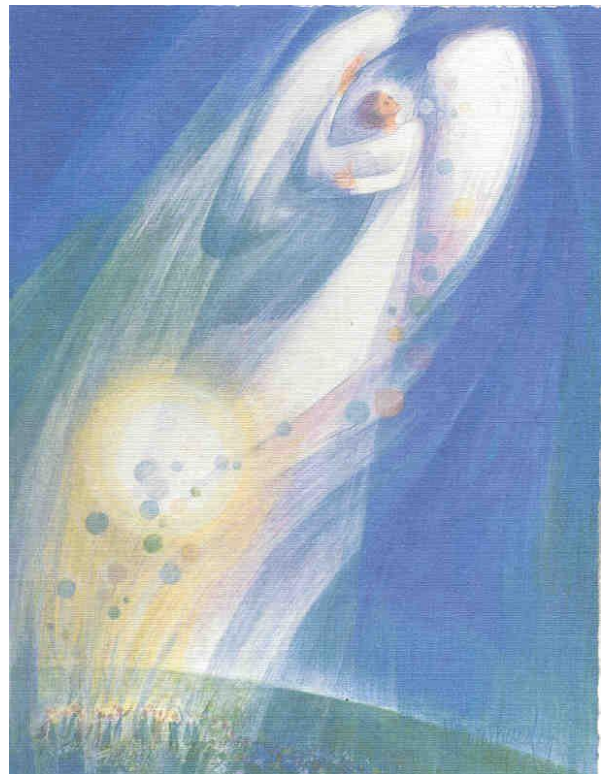
## **Mary Mother of the Poor** Chris Skinner SM

Mary, mother of the poor  
Champion of justice  
Single mother, refugee  
You fully understand  
Mary, bearer of the Son  
Jesus, Saviour of the broken  
Virgin daughter, chosen one  
We all honour you

*From the shadows into daylight  
You gave flesh to the Word  
And gave hope to generations to come  
From the moment you said 'Yes'  
The world would never be the same  
Mary, mother of the poor  
We bless your name.*

Mary, echoing your Son  
His call to liberation  
You pondered in your heart  
You followed in his way  
All the lowly and the lost  
The captive and the outcast  
All those outside the door  
Lift their eyes to you.

*From the shadows into daylight...*



*The Arms of Love, Mary Southard csj.*

## Word of God:

*As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

Luke 11:27-28

## Response to the Word: A Litany

**Voice 1: Mary, Mother of the poor....**

**Voice 2:** *"Our fourth vow is our anchor... we commit to deep listening and open-hearted, respectful encounters.*

**ALL:** *Mary, we bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, Champion of justice**

**Voice 2:** *We will be courageous and prophetic risk-takers in the search for healing and wholeness with and for the people of God.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, Single mother, refugee....**

**Voice 2:** *We will speak out and act where injustice hurts the marginalised.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, You gave flesh to the Word...**

**Voice 2:** *We will be 'more' for the greater glory of God.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, You gave hope to generations to come**

**Voice 2:** *We will hold the scales of justice for ourselves and our earth.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, echoing your Son's call to liberation...**

**Voice 2:** *We are called to be inclusive, boundary breakers for mission.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, for the lowly and the lost, the captive and the outcast...**

**Voice 2:** *We will work to bring healing, justice and inclusion for our indigenous brothers and sisters.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, for those outside the door...**

**Voice 2:** *We hear the call for us to be an inclusive community of presence for each other, our church and our world.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*

**Voice 1: Mary, from the moment you said 'Yes', the world would never be the same.**

**Voice 2:** *We hear the cry of creation in living our 4<sup>th</sup> vow... we claim our responsibility to be informed, to educate, to advocate and to act.*

**ALL:** *We bless your name.*



*Inspired by Mary Mother of the Poor Chris Skinner SM and our 2021 Chapter Direction Statement.*

## **We proclaim together:**

*(Mary) kept faith. We remember her. We connect her story with our own amid the searching narrative of the human race in its history of suffering and hope. We thereby find courage to enact the critical dream of God for the world.*

*From Truly Our Sister, Elizabeth Johnson.*

## **Mary's Song:**

### **Introduction:**

*Elizabeth Johnson writes... Mary's song refuses to be relegated to the past... the community at prayer identifies with Mary of Nazareth bearing the Messiah, pregnant with hope. We relate to God along the lines of her witness.*

*... Her passionate joy, protest and hope flow through the centuries and become ours. Rather than praising her, we join with her in praising God and the surprising divine compassion poured out on a world run amok. In the process, our relationship to God takes on an intimate, liberating character which energises action on behalf of justice. ... and with her, this woman of Spirit, mother of Jesus, friend of God and prophet, we the community of disciples say:*

My soul proclaims your greatness, O my God,  
and my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour.  
For your regard has blessed me, poor, and a serving woman.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed,  
for you, who are mighty, have done great things for me;  
and holy is your Name.  
Your mercy is on those who fear you, from generation to generation.  
You have shown strength with your arm.  
You have scattered the proud in their hearts' conceit.  
You have put down the mighty from their thrones,  
and have lifted up the lowly.  
You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and have sent the rich away empty.  
You have helped your servant Israel,  
remembering your mercy,  
as you promised to Abraham and Sarah,  
mercy to their children forever.

*(Luke 1:46-55)*

**All: Mary, mother of the poor, we bless your name.**



# *We remember our sisters...*



*Sr Judith Christy RSC*

*"Father, if thou wilt".*

*Love, love changes everything, Nothing in the world will ever be the same...*

*Love will turn your world around, Planning futures shaping years...*

From Aspects of Love, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Michael Ball



Judith lived her religious life with commitment, generosity and fidelity. Her reliance on and faith in God was her anchor and she was most faithful to her spiritual life. There were significant moments when Love changed everything for her. About ten years ago, Judith penned some memoirs. She highlighted her attendance at St John's Primary School, Clifton Hill, meeting the Sisters of Charity for the first time. Two who most impressed her were Sr Carmel Considine and Mother St Paul Donovan,

***Love will turn your world around...*** As a teenager, Judith needed to help with her family situation and so left school before completing her formal qualifications. Perhaps this is where the seed of her love for children began to take root as most of her life's ministry was with children.

Mind you, when she entered the novitiate in 1958, she spent many hours doing practice exams for nursing as this is what she thought she would do after profession. Instead, she was sent to Sacred Heart School, Cabramatta to teach infants and given a one-week crash course by Sr Leonore Murphy. At the end of the year, she completed her secondary education and teacher qualifications.

***Planning futures, shaping years...*** Judith spent 20+ years teaching in schools in Sydney and Melbourne and in 1981 was given the opportunity for some sabbatical/renewal time, attending the Assumption Institute in Melbourne. "This had a big influence on me. I learnt Jesus saved souls, I didn't have to and the pressure for me to do so had gone."

***Love, love changes everything...*** Judith was asked to fly to Sydney to see the Congregational Leader, not a common occurrence in the 1980s. If she was feeling nervous, she became distracted by the serving of champagne to all passengers because Australia had just won the America's Cup! She was asked to transfer to Hobart to take on a role at Taroona to work with children in crisis. Judith noted: "I was given one hour to think over the pros and cons." Judith responded, "Yes!"

"in 2002 I was fortunate to go for spiritual renewal to the New Life Program at Castle Hill. I found this a highlight which gave me great strength for my spiritual life ... also in that year, I read in the Sun Herald newspaper an ad for Grandparents for children at the Royal Children's Hospital. I applied and was successful.

***Nothing in the world will ever be the same!!***

Judith loved this ministry and enjoyed the children, babies and their families. I asked her once how she coped with saying goodbye to them as they left hospital or were taken to heaven. She beamed and said something like, "If I can bring a bit of love and comfort to these children and their parents, then I am sharing God's love."

It was at this time in her life that serious health issues presented themselves adding to the crippling rheumatoid arthritis she had lived with for many years. She did not complain about how her life was changing as her physical issues increased.

Judith loved her family and friends, her abiding relationship with her guardian angel, the Collingwood Football Club and the life of St Therese which captivated her as a small child. How significant that we celebrated her life in the church which bears St Therese's name.

We thank God for Judith among us and know she has been given a great welcome home.

Laureen Dixon rsc



*Sr Elizabeth Wall RSC.*

1938 - 2023

*"In thee I trust".*



As I look around here this morning, I think Elizabeth would have been overwhelmed to see so many people come to say farewell – those who worked with her many years ago and from the Novitiate.

Sister Elizabeth did her nursing training at St. Joseph's Auburn before entering the Sisters of Charity in 1966. In 2018 she celebrated her golden jubilee as a Sister of Charity with family, friends and sisters.

Up to that time Elizabeth had ministered in every state where we have a facility. She brought to those fifty years her professional training as Nurse and filled many ministries including Nurse Administrator, Community Nurse and Community worker in Sisters of Charity Outreach. Her ministry ranged from mothers and babies to aged care.

As well as her professional skills Elizabeth had her own personal gifts. She was a gracious, calm, faith filled welcoming person with a deep compassion for people. She had a great sense of fun and a quiet sense of humour. A valued person in communities and, as many sisters testify, Elizabeth was a peace maker.

Elizabeth had a deep and loving connection with her family, her sisters and brothers and her extended family of nieces and nephews.

I have known Elizabeth since novitiate days and we have crossed paths over the years. However, since her coming to Auburn eight years ago, we have met every Tuesday.

Like so many others, my life was touched by this gracious and faith-filled lady.

Kathleen Doohan RSC

*Our Sisters Robyn Wheeler and Maria Carmel Cullen*

*will be remembered in the next edition of Encounters.*



## *The Clemente Program... Meet James*

James Akuhata Wiremu Keefe, is a proud recipient of sponsorship for a Bachelor of Laws degree by the Sisters of Charity, currently studying at ACU North Sydney Campus. Recently, James came to tell us his story and to thank the congregation for our continued sponsorship.



James introduced himself:

*I am a NZ Maori and my parents are Patrick and Rangiwahlu Keefe - my father from the Hawkes Bay region on the east coast of the north island, known as the Kahungunu tribe to my people. My mother is from the Waikato region, the Tainui Tribe, the biggest of the north island.*

A victim of childhood trauma, James continued:

*This created a confused and complicated mind space which transpired into my being a promiscuous teen with a heavy grey cloud constantly above me. I rebelled a lot through running away from home, with drugs and alcohol as fuel.*

After the death of a partner from addiction, James spiralled downwards but was eventually placed in the MAC Centre, a homeless shelter in Surry Hills, Sydney...

*This was the turning point of my life as I know it today. I was given all the treatment and care from all the services available... mental health, counselling, TAFE mental health courses, medical and dental care, inner growth and self-care programs, integrating back into society. Social activities, lifestyle education, psychiatric and psychological care, financial and healthy living guidance.*

*I also became a graduate of the Clemente program, a collaboration of ACU and MA which has allowed me to enter law school. This program was created to allow people with misfortunes in their life to access university and strive for goals you never dreamed of achieving.*

*I am a part-time student and currently in my third year. I have been sponsored by the Sisters of Charity and would like to take this opportunity to finally extend a hand of gratitude and mind of solace for sponsoring me. I walk with much happiness and confidence knowing my fees have been paid and my brain strain comes only from the many cases and textbooks I have read!*

*... please let it be known amongst yourselves that this ole Maori boy is so heart-warmingly grateful to the Sisters of Charity, and how instrumental you are in allowing this once homeless addict to become an upcoming solicitor with a brighter view on the world... I look forward to reaching out to others that need my help and know that my life experiences are great tools to use when I come across people that have walked similar steps to myself.*

*Thank you.*



James with the CL&C after his presentation.

*It is very little matter  
what we are doing  
for God,  
provided we are doing it  
in the best possible way  
we can.*

Mary Alkenhead



# *Irish Pilgrimage with Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

*Judy Christie reflects on her time as a pilgrim to Ireland in June 2023.*

The Sisters of Charity generously gave me the opportunity to join in the 2023 Irish Pilgrimage after working for the Sisters of Charity Foundation as a Project Officer for many years. I was touched by the good wishes from many of the Sisters in the lead up to the pilgrimage.

I had imagined I would be totally focused on following the story of Mary Aikenhead and what she had achieved in her lifetime but found that it became far more with the full understanding of what the Sisters of Charity have since achieved because of that love Mary Aikenhead had for the poor.

We visited many places of importance to the story, those that were especially memorable were:

Mary Aikenhead Heritage Centre. To stand in the room where Mary worked for so many years at her round table was especially moving.

Harold's Cross Hospice and Stanhope Street (meditation & renewal centre) with beautiful and tranquil gardens which provide respite for patients and workers alike.

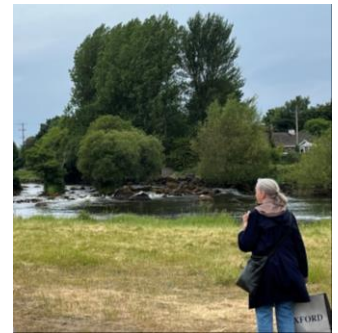
Dun Laoghaire Pier where the five Sisters left from to travel to Australia in 1838. I wondered what was in the minds of these five Sisters. Was it trepidation for the journey ahead or was there excitement at what lay ahead?

Foxford Woollen Mill, established by Mother Arsenius Morrogh-Bernard in 1892 after seeing the dire need in the Foxford community. With its success, Mother Arsenius built homes for the workers, commenced a brass and reed band, established schools and other facilities.

We were invited to attend the Blessing of Graves at Donnybrook Cemetery and were honoured to place a rose on Mary Aikenhead's grave, and carnations at the headstones - very moving for all participants on the day.

Our pilgrimage concluded at Glendalough a place of natural beauty both spiritual and peaceful. This was an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our experiences in Ireland and to contemplate the future and the contribution each of us can make to carry on the charism of the Sisters of Charity.

My favourite thing... The visit to Foxford and the Woollen Mill was so impressive. It was humbling to see what one woman can achieve given a certain time in history. Venerable Mary Aikenhead established the Sisters of Charity to give service to the poor, Mother Arsenius transformed Foxford from a very poor community to a thriving community and Sr Stanislaus Kennedy (still alive today) who commenced work and advocacy for the homeless in Ireland which has since become Focus Ireland (the biggest provider of homes for the homeless in Ireland). I asked myself how we can each live a life worthy of the legacy left by Mary and the Sisters of Charity?



Top: Judy looks at the river beside the Foxford Woollen Mill; Middle: Sr Stan Kennedy rsc with Debbie; Bottom: Mary Aikenhead's grave surrounded by the refurbished graves of Sisters of Charity, Donnybrook.



*Serve God with a great heart and a willing mind.*

Mary Aikenhead

Pilgrims outside Mary Aikenhead's family home in Cork

*Stewardship for Mission ... some reflections from  
our Congregational Assembly March 2023.*

***“An assembly is the action of gathering together as a group for a common purpose.”***



Sr Lauren Dixon rsc welcomes  
Assembly participants.



Br Graham Neist FMS,  
Assembly Facilitator.

**Sr Margaret Beirne RSC writes:**

In reflecting back over these past four months, it occurs to me that the experience might well be summed up with the threefold focus of the upcoming Synod on Synodality: Communion, Mission, and Participation. I was delighted that, in her opening address, Lauren set the Assembly theme ‘Stewardship for Mission’ in the context of these three elements, which were then woven throughout the weekend. It could truly be said that our time together was a microcosm of the Synod itself, “a period of listening and dialogue” where the mission of the Church is said to “require the whole people of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her crucial role” (*Vademecum*, 1.4)

These three aspects came together in what was for me the highlight, when we were asked to consider: “What if?” At my table, each of us shared freely whatever was burning in our hearts; in turn, it was received with deep listening, trust, and respect.

Our Mission is to be contemplatives in action, serving wherever we are able, and especially the poor. Together with our lay companions we are called “to bring new life for all the people of God” (Graham Neist). What might this involve at this stage of our congregational journey? What would Mary Aikenhead say if she were here with us today? How can we make the most of our Ignatian heritage, the gift she left with us to guide our prayer and our discernment?

Margaret Beirne rsc

*Let what is good,  
and given to us from the  
hand of God and His  
Church, be prized and  
practical,  
Time will prove its value!*

Mary Aikenhead



Our Prayer focus, 25<sup>th</sup> March, Feast of the Annunciation

***“Annunciations keep happening, bringing into the ordinariness of life a message of God’s gracious care and desire to repair the world.***

***Touching the root of our humanity, these messages reveal hidden possibilities within the limits of our existence, revive our hope in the midst of struggle and summon our energies for creative action.”***

Elizabeth Johnson,  
Truly Our Sister

The assembly room.



**Members of the Strategy Committee,  
Robert Cahill, Loretta Di Mento and Lachlan Edwards  
attended the Assembly.**

**A summary of their group reflection follows:**

The Sisters attending the Assembly in person, ... demonstrated their energy and passion for their charism. Their commitment to the purpose of the Congregation, and consequently the need and importance to ensure a long-term legacy is in place to carry on the charism after a graceful conclusion is realized, was undeniable.

Time and again phrases such as “the mission has more to offer”, “there remains a need for charity and kindness, which in many cases is once again increasing”, “there is so much need” and “the poor, vulnerable and disempowered have no voice” were the focus of the conversations that revolved around the need to press on.

Our conclusion from these discussions were that Sisters were of the view that:

- Our charism remains as relevant as it ever did.
- We must find a way to keep doing more as we have the resources, the vision and the will.
- Our legacy is a valuable one in this society, and it must be underwritten.
- Our CL&C have consulted us and have heard our many voices.

Now is the time for leadership and decisive action as time is not our friend. Key decisions need to be made and the new arrangements need to start being implemented.

***“Committed to deep listening and open hearted, respectful encounters.”***

Direction Statement, 2021

# MAM Conference 2023

*The Love of Christ Impels Us*

— *Mary Aikenhead Ministries for Our Time.*



Sr Anthea Groves RSC writes:

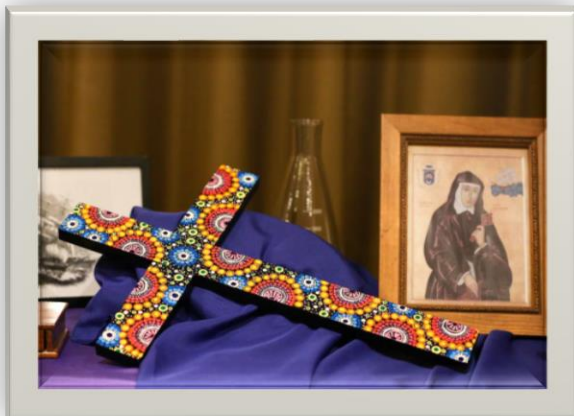
I was grateful for the privilege of attending this Conference. on March 11 and 12 at the Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney. Aunty Jean Bull. Welcomed all to Country and the Chair of Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Mr Richard Haddock continued the welcome.

This theme *“The Love of Christ Impels Us”* was the focus of subsequent speakers,

- The development of the motto, “what does this mean for us?” from several of the Trustees.
- The presentations by Mr Mark McCrindle on the significance of statistics, and that of Dr. Trudy Dantis Director of the ACBC,

Dr. Bernadette Tobin, Reader in Philosophy at the Australian Catholic University and Acting Director of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics delivered the **Inaugural Venerable Mary Aikenhead Oration**, *“Do pray that justice may be accomplished in peace and that truth may prevail.”* Dr. Xavier Symons, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science responded.

The evening began with Eucharist celebrated at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. Dinner followed with further opportunities to connect with each other. Stories were shared and expanded in the atmosphere of camaraderie that had developed throughout the day.



## Day two

For early risers and exercise enthusiasts, the second day commenced with a walk to Campbell's Cove.

The day's program included:

- An opportunity for all our ministries to showcase their work, "*Bringing Mission to Life in Our Times.*"
- "*Do Not Be Afraid: the Catholic Vocation in Healthcare and Education*" live streamed by Prof. Phillip Booth of St. Mary's University, Twickenham London.
- A panel discussion, *Mission, Integrity and Equity* moderated by Prof. Francis Campbell, VC, Notre Dame Australia. Five panellists, from diverse professional and ministerial perspectives, both informed and challenged us.
- Fr. Frank Brennan SJ, AO, our Conference Companion continued to challenge all present.

### A PERSONAL REFLECTION

For me, the outstanding impact of the Conference came from the focus on our motto "The Love of Christ Impels Us." This was sustained throughout the program and presentations.

I was also impressed by the Inaugural Venerable Mary Aikenhead Oration.

This was a challenging conference, at every level: for Trustees, individual presenters and panellists, as well as participants.



MAM Trustees with Sisters of Charity.



Dr Bernadette Tobin, Venerable Mary Aikenhead Oration

## *Introduction to our Congregational Laudato Si Document*



With this edition of Encounters, you will receive a copy of our Congregational Laudato Si Document which was produced by our Care of Common Home Committee, in response to our 2021 Chapter Direction Statement.

The Chair of this Committee is Sr Elizabeth Dodds with members, Srs Karan Varker, Anne Taylor, Margaret Valentine, Kathleen Doohan and Margaret Guy.

This document includes responses from our sisters and many global partners.

We as a congregation are now registered with the Laudato Si Action Platform and have divested from fossil fuel investments.

This document was launched at our Congregational Assembly last March and while free to choose any other goals and actions, sisters were invited to focus on Goal 6 Ecological Spirituality for the next year.

## *One practical action....*

### *RSC Travel for Africa-*

### *The Chikuni Bicycle project, Zambia.*

When working with the encyclical Laudato Si' to prepare our congregational goals, the Care of the Common Home Committee tried to find a practical way to deepen the ecological consciousness of our sisters. It was decided to encourage each Sister when she travelled, to be conscious of the emissions occurring and make a donation from her personal budget.

At our Congregational Assembly in March, we launched the project - Bicycles for Chikuni.

This project aims to provide bicycles for 14-year-old girls from Chikuni Girls High School who will use the bicycles to travel more quickly and safely to and from school.

This is a collaborative endeavour between the Sisters of Charity of Australia and the Religious Sisters of Charity. To date we have collected \$14,630 which will buy 45 bicycles. Further donations will be sent in December.

We are grateful for the generosity of our sisters and colleagues.

Anne Taylor rsc



Three happy cyclists.

# *Farewell to Kaylene and Melinda...*



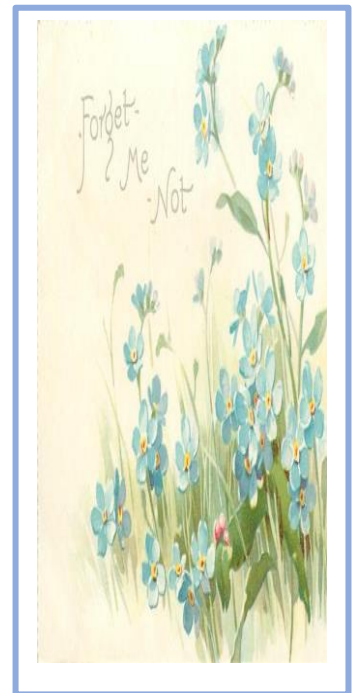
*Go with our love  
and gratitude  
for your combined 53 years  
of service to our Congregation.*

*My humanity is  
bound up in  
yours, for we can  
only be human  
together.*

Desmond Tutu

*We wish you  
God's choicest blessings  
and good times  
in your retirement.*

*Thank you from the  
Sisters of Charity of Australia.*





*We pay our respect to the traditional custodians of all the lands upon which we live and work, Gadigal People of the Eora nation, Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung People, part of the Kulin nations, Larrakia People of the Larrakia region, Turrbal and Jagera People of Meanjin nation, Palawa People of Nipuluna nation, Wadawarrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging. We commit to walking and learning together.*



**Sisters of Charity of Australia**